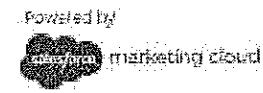


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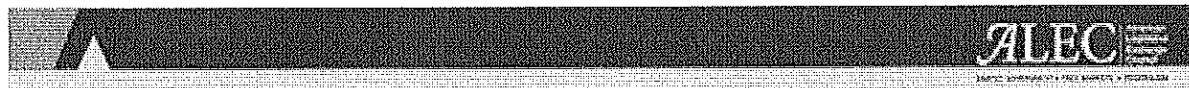
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Subject: Kirk, celebrate your independence day with the latest on state budgets!

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[Center for State Fiscal Reform - July 4, 2017](#)

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Expert Opinion

Illinois Must Dig Itself Out of the Fiscal Ditch

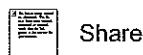
ownhall | Jonathan Williams | Christine Smith | State Budget Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

Finger-pointing is rampant in Illinois as the state's credit rating has been downgraded by S&P and Moody's to near junk status, the lowest ever for a state.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Insight

On the Kansas Budget Impasse, Look Beyond the Media Hype to the Facts

he Hill | Kansas Senator Ty Masterson | Joel Griffith



[Read the Full Article](#)

The Kansas impasse over how to resolve the budget gap and whether to impose drastic tax hikes has captured the attention of both the state and the nation. Task Force Director Joel Griffith, firmly suggests,

"If legislators value the marked improvement in Kansas jobs growth since the start of 2013, minimizing the tax burden of jobs creators, entrepreneurs, and workers should be at the forefront of a final agreement."

[Click here for more.](#)



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Pension Expert Insight

Pension Obligation Bonds Could Unravel Pension Reform Victory

Joel Griffith | Thurston Powers | Pension Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

Recent pension reform progress in states like Pennsylvania could take two steps back, due to Pension Obligation Bonds (POB). POBs are simply not worth the risk of gambling with the hard earned money of both current and future taxpayers.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Opinion

Delaware Could Learn an Economic Lesson from North Carolina

The News Journal | Jonathan Williams | James P. Ursomarso



[Read the Full Bio](#)

When it comes to state budget problems, Delaware is not alone as it faces a nearly \$350 million gap. In fact, more than 30 states faced budget shortfalls this fiscal year.

[Click here for more.](#)



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State Budget Report

The Williams Report

State Budget Solutions | Bob Williams | Senior ALEC Scholar



[Read the Full Report](#)

Make sure to catch the bi-monthly *Williams Report* for a quick rundown of action in the states on budget and pension reform.

[Click here for more.](#)



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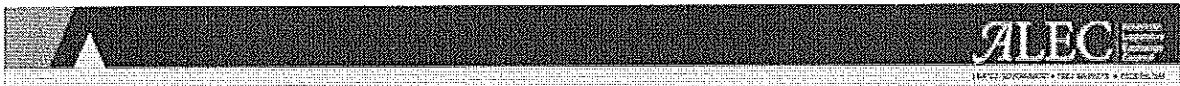
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To: Rep48
Subject: Last chance for the ALEC State Leadership Academy!

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Don't miss out on this exclusive event – RSVP for the State Leadership Academy today!

Dear Kirk,

We all tackle hard-hitting issues in our respective states and while one size does not fit all, why not come together, collaborate and develop winning policy solutions, tailored to the individual needs of our states?

I hope you will join me and other legislators from states across the country for an invitation-only academy, designed exclusively for Speakers of the House, Senate Presidents and Caucus and Committee Chairmen.

Don't miss out on this jam-packed event, featuring TV and radio personalities, leading policy experts and valuable opportunities for us to network with leaders in neighboring and regional state legislatures and even gain insight from our counterparts across the country.

This Leadership Academy will be held July 17-18 at the Hyatt Regency Denver in conjunction with the American Legislative Exchange Council Annual Meeting. To RSVP, please contact Spencer Chretien at schretien@alec.org or (571) 482-5013.

ALEC will cover two nights hotel and reimburse up to \$500 in airfare.

Click here for a copy of the agenda.

I hope you won't miss out on this exclusive event. Please RSVP for the State Leadership Academy today.

Sincerely,

Speaker Linda Upmeyer, Iowa

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44th
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Meeting

JULY 19-21, 2017 | DENVER, CO

2017
JULY 19 – 21

DENVER, COLORADO

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Expert Opinion

Federalism is the Answer to Political Violence

Ed Alert Politics | Joseph "CY" Tongate | Federalism



[Read the Full Article](#)

Devolving some powers to the states would allow for the expression of a wider diversity of political views throughout the country, without the fear of violent backlash — restoring the fifty laboratories of democracy, to continue our country's great democratic experiment. Political violence is a cancer on our democracy; federalism can be the cure.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Insight

SCOTUS Decision in Trinity Lutheran Sets Stage for Expanded School Choice

ownhall | Inez Feltscher Stepman | Monica Moir | School Choice



[Read the Full Article](#)

In a 7-2 decision last week, the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling in favor of educational and religious liberty in the highly anticipated case *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Comer*. The Court concluded **states do not have the power** to bar religious institutions from receiving state aid for a neutral or secular purpose. This ruling could be a major step forward for education choice and opportunity.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Opinion

Without Title II, is the Internet the New 'Wild West'?

Daniel Ogleby | Privacy and Security



[Read the Full Article](#)

Without government regulation, some have argued, the Internet is like the Wild West.

The idea is to paint the Internet and the innovators who provide access to it, as living in an untamed and unregulated environment. If the innovators have free rein, then they will inevitably trample all over the individuals who use the Internet.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Opinion

Delaware Could Learn an Economic Lesson from North Carolina

the News Journal | Jonathan Williams | James P. Ursomarso



When it comes to state budget problems, Delaware is not alone as it faces a nearly \$350 million gap. In fact, more than 30 states faced budget shortfalls this fiscal year.

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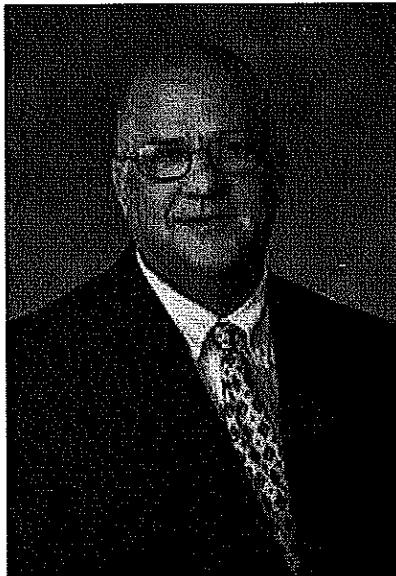
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Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Representative Mike Nearman | OR-23



Representative Mike Nearman is currently serving his second term in the Oregon Legislative Assembly representing the 23rd district. Rep. Nearman is a local Oregonian who attended Jesuit High School in Portland. After his graduation from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Rep. Nearman returned to Oregon to help with his family's business.

[Click here for more.](#)



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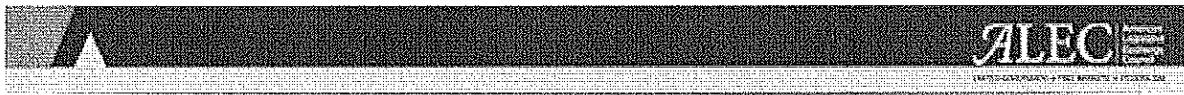
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Dear Kirk,

Over the past three years, ALEC has experienced a period of dramatic growth that ran parallel to a national refocusing on the states and state-based, limited government policy. Governed by the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan, ALEC has dramatically increased policy programming, membership, fundraising, media and public awareness. Last year was our best fundraising year ever, and thus far this year we've recruited a near-record number of new members.

As we enter our 45th year as the leading state legislative, free market organization and begin the next strategic planning process, you can play an integral role in our future by sharing your thoughts—by taking the 2017 ALEC member survey.

LEC is at its best when members identify and share the issues they are confronting in the states. For instance, ALEC was on the leading edge of discussion and model policy creation regarding the opioid epidemic because of Wisconsin Representative John Nygren's direction. Similarly, in response to requests from legislators around the country, ALEC is launching a new Task Force focused on Homeland Security (more on that below). These anecdotes are just a few that represent how ALEC can support your research and continuing education needs.

Please take 20 minutes to complete the ALEC member survey. It's among the most important things you can do to ensure ALEC continues to grow and serve legislators and stakeholders as it has done for more than two generations.

[Complete the Survey Here](#)

In a past member survey, we learned members wanted ALEC to be on the cutting edge of new issues and to provide more explainer content to help legislators quickly and easily understand the nuances of a granular piece of policy. And as a result, over the past two years the ALEC team has launched several new Centers or Task Forces as well as produced hundreds of videos.

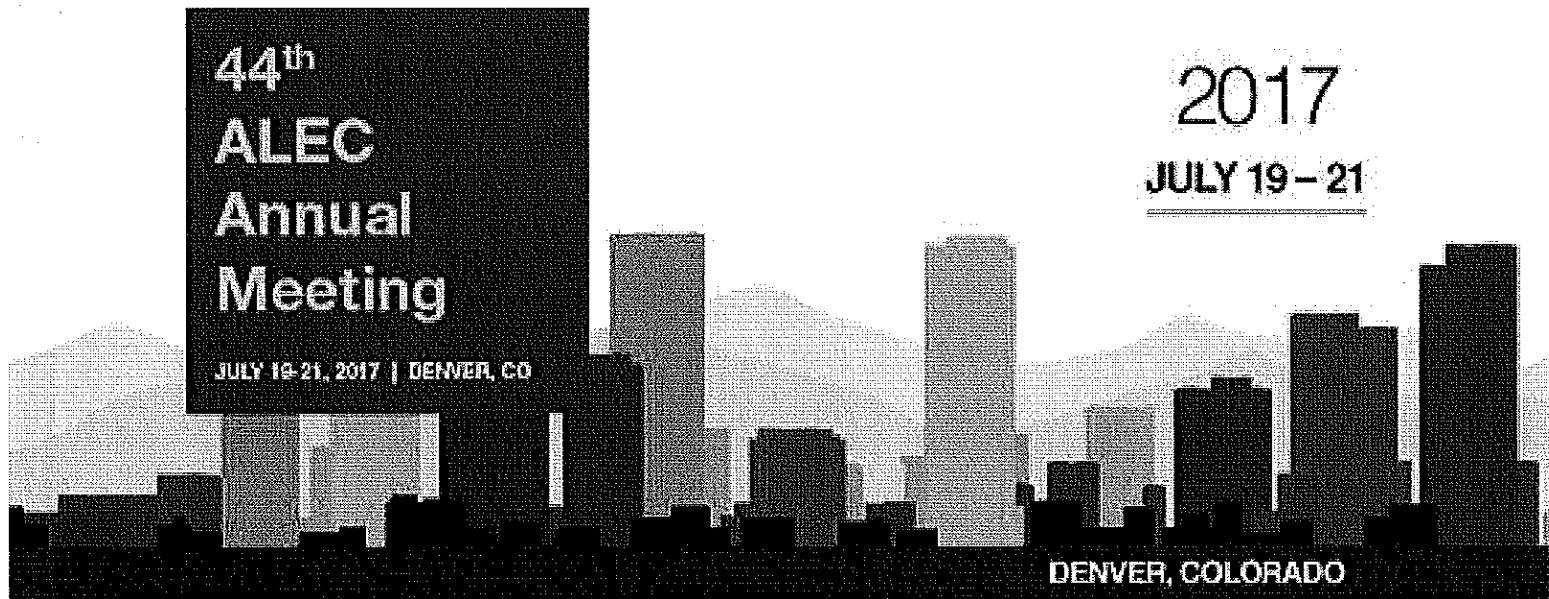
Please take a moment to view two great new explainer videos on [mandatory minimum sentencing](#) and [tax reform](#). And, please be sure to share them with your colleagues.

ew policy content comes in many forms such as working groups. Many of you may have participated in the Homeland Security Working Group over the past three meetings. The new Homeland Security Task Force which will meet for the first time at the Denver Annual Meeting will focus on a myriad of security issues, from school security to cybersecurity, from first responders to infrastructure and everything in between to bring state legislators, local and county elected officials, and industry and thought leaders together for information sharing, and the creation of model policy. If you or one of our peers are interested in joining the task force please email Spencer Chretien schretien@alec.org.

LEC is growing to serve its members. With an eye toward all we've accomplished over the past 45 years, we are headed toward a bright future where states will lead the way. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Denver Annual Meeting this month and appreciate you taking time to **complete the member survey**.

incredely,

isa B. Nelson
EO

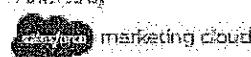


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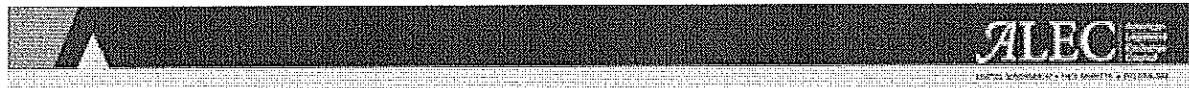
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ALEC Events - July 11, 2017



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JULY 19-21, 2017 | DENVER, CO

2017
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ALEC Annual Meeting Resources

Confirmed Speakers



[See the Line-up](#)

Travel/Lodging



[Make Your Reservation](#)

For the Kids



[Kids Congress](#)

Annual Meeting Agenda Spotlight

Homeland Security Task Force Meeting

Contact Spencer Chretien to Join: Schretien@alec.org



[Read the Full Article](#)

The new Homeland Security Task Force will meet for the first time at the Denver Annual Meeting. The meeting will focus on a myriad of security issues, including school security, cybersecurity, first responders, infrastructure and much more. Click below for the full meeting agenda.

[Click here for more.](#)



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ALEC CARE

ALEC CARE Demos in Denver

Contact Ashley Varner for more information: avarner@alec.org



[CARE Demo Schedule](#)

While you make plans for your Task Force meetings, make sure to carve out time for a quick, 20-minute CARE demonstration.

ALEC CARE is an internet-based, one-stop shop for **Constituent Relationship Management (CRM)** for lawmakers. This valuable suite contains outreach communication and constituent data retention tools to help legislators expand their constituent engagement. Customizable constituent profiles, versatile email and touch-tone phone surveys, and text and SMS push messaging help public officials gain real-time insight into the attitudes and policy priorities of their constituents.

If your Task Force meeting is on Thursday, our CARE team would be happy to reserve your spot during one of the Friday time-slots. If your Task Force meeting falls on Friday, drop by during the Thursday line-up.

Annual Meeting Agenda Update

ALEC Workshop Line-up

Wednesday, July 19 ALEC Workshops:

Restoring the Balance of Government

Why the State of Oil and Natural Gas Regulations: Local Governments vs. State Agencies & How the Industry Can Best Balance Transparency and Safety

tax, Fiscal and Efficiency in Government

Getting the Response to the Opioid Crisis Right

Innovation and Technology

The Future of Fossil Fuels: How Innovative Technologies will Lower Costs and Solve Environmental Objectives

tax, Fiscal and Efficiency in Government

Expanding Access to Dental Care in Medicaid Through Market-Based Solutions

Thursday, July 20 Workshops:

Restoring the Balance of Government

Why the Nation Needs You to Drain the Swamp With the Ultimate Tool of Federalism: 4 Perspectives on Article V

Innovation and Technology

Combating Prescription Drug Abuse: A Collective Approach to Policy Solutions Is Essential

Innovation and Technology

Beyond the Headlines: The Data and Trends You Need to Know about School Choice

Friday, July 29 ALEC Workshops:

tax, Fiscal and Efficiency in Government

Marijuana: Determining the Financial Impact of Legalization and Regulation

[Click Here for the Full Meeting Agenda](#)

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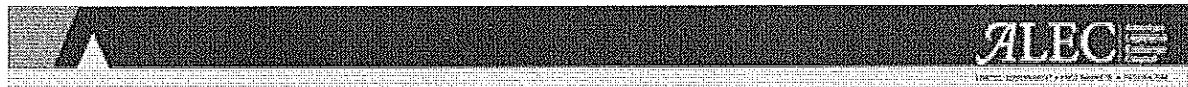
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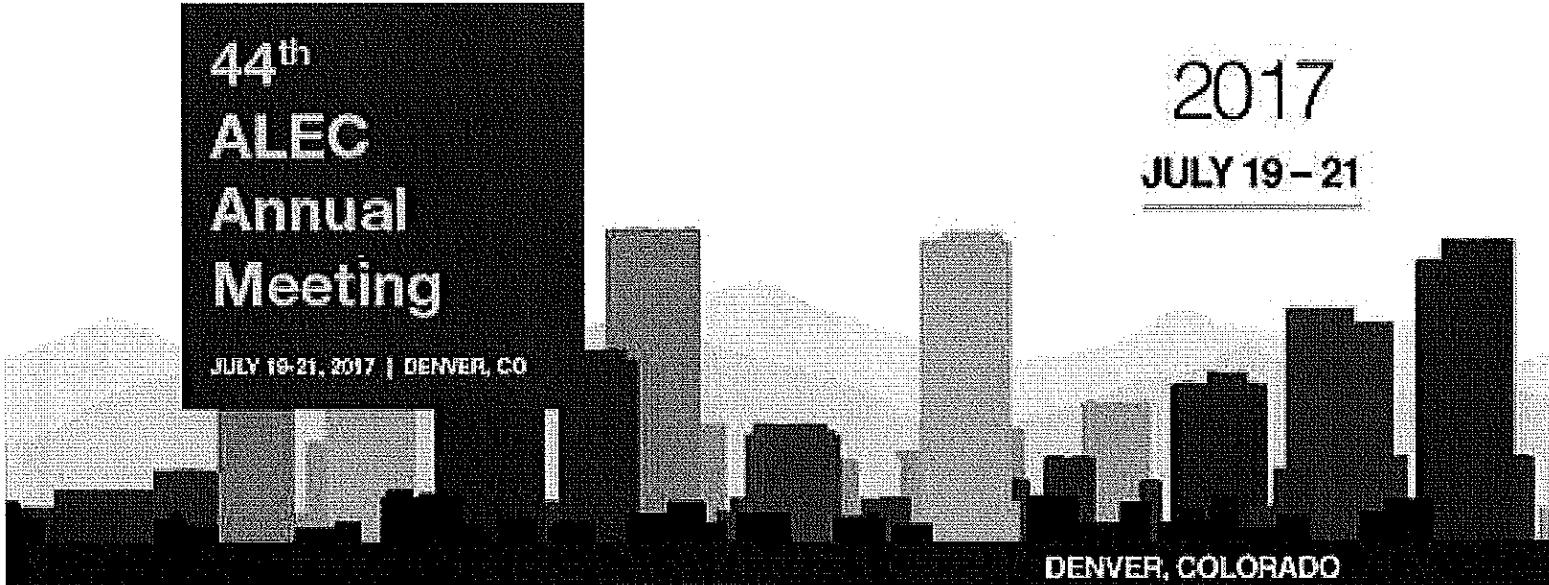
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[Digital Exchange - July 13, 2017](#)

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2017 ALEC Member Survey

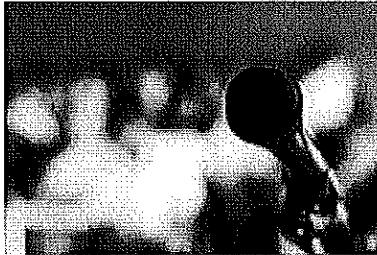
As we enter our 45th year as the leading state legislative, free market organization and begin the next strategic planning process, you can play an integral role in our future by sharing your thoughts—by taking the 2017 ALEC member survey. **Please take 20 minutes to complete the ALEC Member Survey.** It's among the most important things you can do to ensure ALEC continues to grow and serve legislators and stakeholders as it has for more than two generations.

[Click Here to Complete Your Survey](#)

ALEC Annual Meeting Resources

Annual Meeting Speaker Updates

Click the link below for the complete list



The 44th ALEC Annual Meeting in Denver, has an exciting speaker line-up. With new confirmations everyday, keep an eye on your inbox for the latest on meeting updates.

[Confirmed Speakers](#)

Annual Meeting Travel and Lodging

Click below for a list of alternative hotels in the area



The ALEC hotel block is CLOSED. If you have not yet booked your hotel room for Denver, contact the hotel directly for possible cancellations or click the link below for a list of near by hotels.

[Alternative Hotels](#)

ALEC CARE

ALEC CARE Demos in Denver

Contact Ashley Varner for more information: avarner@alec.org



[CARE Demo Schedule](#)

While you make plans for your Task Force meetings, make sure to carve out time for a quick, 20-minute CARE demonstration.

ALEC CARE is an internet-based, one-stop shop for Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) for lawmakers. This valuable suite contains outreach

communication and constituent data retention tools to help legislators expand their constituent engagement. Customizable constituent profiles, versatile email and touch-tone phone surveys, and text and SMS push messaging help public officials gain real-time insight into the attitudes and policy priorities of their constituents.

If your Task Force meeting is on Thursday, our CARE team would be happy to reserve your spot during one of the Friday time-slots. If your Task Force meeting falls on Friday, drop by during the Thursday line-up.

Center to Protect Free Speech Update

Three (Quick!) Lessons for Legislators About Commercial Speech

by Shelby Emmett | Commercial Speech



Proceed with caution when limiting or compelling commercial speech, the Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) warns.

"Government legislators and regulators should think long and hard before using any speech restraint or compelled disclosure to pursue their consumption preferences or policy goals." This is the conclusion of the new policy paper by the WLF.

In this easy-to-read three lesson article, Center Director Shelby Emmett breaks down the fundamentals of protecting commercial speech.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Representative Kim Coleman | UT-42



[Read the Full Bio](#)

Representative Kim Coleman was born in New Orleans and spent her early childhood years in Louisiana and Texas. Before entering politics, Rep. Coleman was involved in business. She received undergraduate degrees in sociology and psychology, and a certification in criminology from the University of Utah. After graduate work in addictions counseling, Rep. Coleman dedicated her time to inpatient treatment of adolescents with mental health disorders and substance addicted teens.

[Click Here for the Full Bio.](#)



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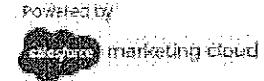


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Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:24 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Are you going to Denver?

Kirk Schuring,

I am writing to ask if you are attending the American Legislative Exchange Council's annual conference in Denver this month.

I am very concerned about ALEC's influence. ALEC is an organization that has repeatedly put corporate profits above the desire of the American people.

By refusing to become a member of ALEC, you stand with the people you represent. People that play fair and work hard.

Daniel Seiple
danbev22@neo.rr.com
1933 Wynstone Cir. N.E.
North Canton, Ohio 44720

From: American Legislative Exchange Council
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 12:29 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Kirk, here's what you need to know for the meeting

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Center to Restore the Balance of Government -
July 18, 2017



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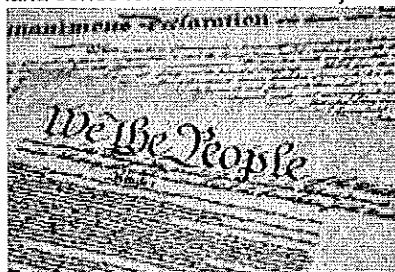
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44th ALEC Annual Meeting

Federalism and International Relations Task Force Meeting Look Ahead

Contact Karla Jones for Further Details: kjones@alec.org



As one of the ALEC guiding principles, federalism will take center stage at the ALEC Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, July 19-21, 2017, and here are some of the highlights.

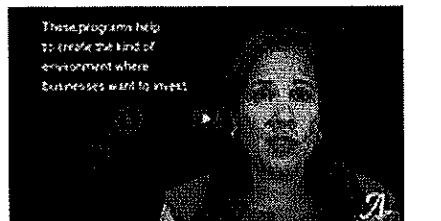
The Federalism and International Relations Subcommittees will meet on Wednesday, July 19 from 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM and the Task Force on Friday, July 21 from 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM. Federalism-focused segments included in the link below.

[Click Here for Meeting Details](#)

IEW: ALEC Video

Policy 101: Foreign Aid Explained

Policy Explainer Video | Karla Jones | A Sarah Wood Production



[Watch the Full Video](#)

Federalism and International Relations Task Force Director lays out the truth behind foreign aid.

"What if I told you that one of the most effective weapons in America's national security arsenal is also one of its least expensive? In fact, it makes up less than one percent of the federal budget."

[Click here for more.](#)

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Administration Update

ALEC Is Newest Member of Advisory Council of the Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs

Carla Jones | Federalism



[Read the Full Article](#)

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Earlier this month, ALEC was invited to join the Advisory Council of the U.S. House Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs. Chaired by Utah Congressman Rob Bishop, the Task Force has a five-fold mission.

[Click here for more.](#)



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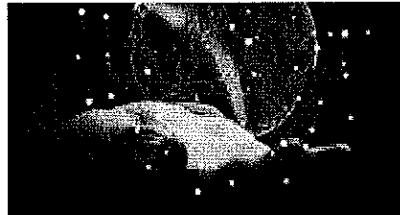


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Expert Insight

Release of the 2017 International Property Rights Index: On the (Property) Right Track

Joseph "Cy" Tongate | Intellectual Property



[Read the Full Article](#)

On July 11, the Americans for Tax Reform Property Rights Alliance released its *2017 International Property Rights Index*, which measures Physical Property Rights, Intellectual Property Rights and the prevailing Legal and Political Environment in 127 countries representing 98 percent of global GDP. *The International Property Rights Index* ranks countries on a scale of one to ten, with ten being a perfect property rights score.



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Expert Opinion

Postcards From Texas: Part II

Joseph "Cy" Tongate | Federalism | Texas



[Read the Full Article](#)

ALEC Intern, Cy provides a look into the unique pride Texans have in their home states' historic independence. Click the link below for a fresh perspective on the political network that runs deep in the heart of Texas.

[Click here for more.](#)



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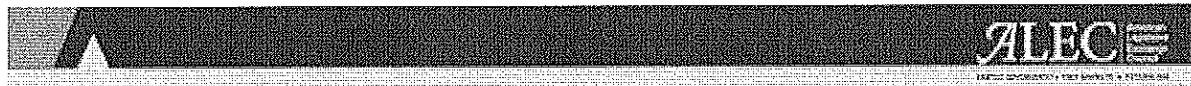
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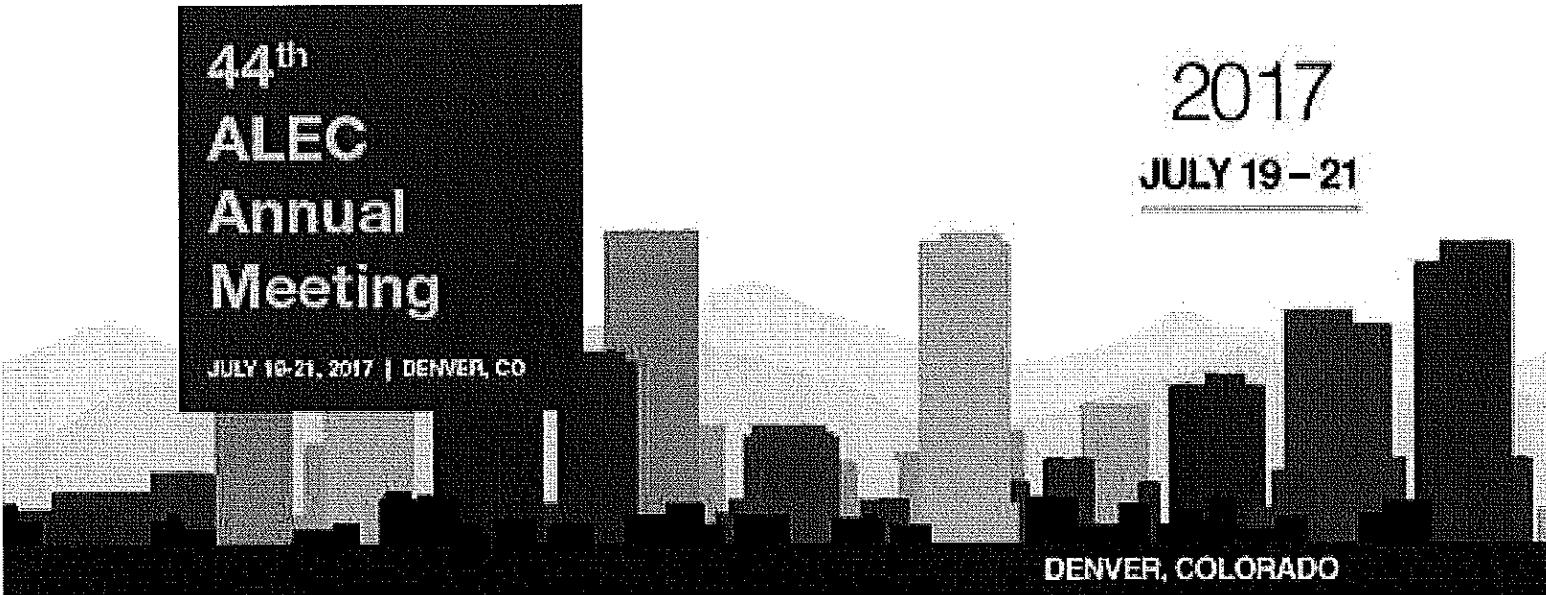
Daily Look Ahead - July 19, 2017



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Welcome to the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting



Thank you for joining us for the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting in the mile high city! ALEC meeting attendees must go to the first floor and take the escalator up to the third floor to access the ALEC Annual Meeting space. Look below for today's meeting details.

[Watch Today's Video Promo](#)

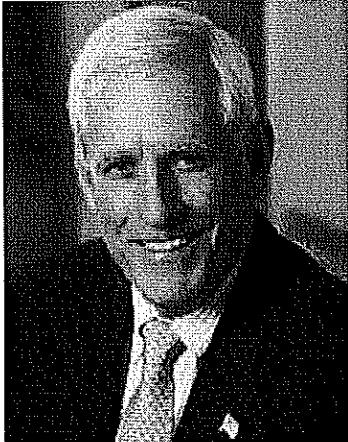
Plenary Session - Wednesday, July 19

Opening Luncheon Panel Discussion: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Sponsored by: Anadarko, Extraction Oil & Gas, Noble Energy | Hosted By: ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech

Mr. Peter H. Coors

CCRO | Molson Coors Brewing Co.



Opening Lunch Panelist:
Mr. Peter H. Coors

Peter H. Coors is Chairman and Chief Customer Relations Officer of Molson Coors Brewing Company.

Darcy Olson

Former CEO | Goldwater Institute

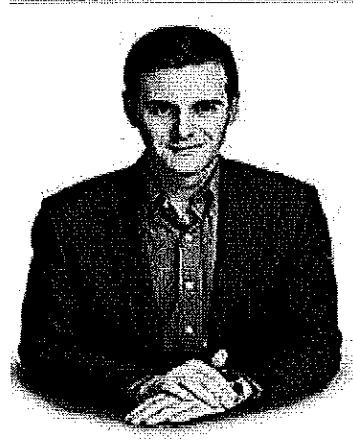


Opening Lunch Panelist:
Darcy Olson

Darcy Olson is the former CEO of the Goldwater Institute.

Mr. Guy Benson

Editor | Townhall | Contributor | Fox News



Opening Lunch Panelist:
Mr. Guy Benson

Guy Benson is the Political Editor of Townhall.com and a Fox News Contributor.

[Speaker Bio](#)

Speaker Bio

Speaker Bio



Today's Speakers

Cynthia Coffman - 11:30 AM - Centennial D-H
Mr. Chip Rimer - 11:30 AM - Centennial D-H
Mr. Steve Forbes - 11:30 AM - Centennial D-H



Full Speaker Line up

ALEC After Hours

Appaloosa Grill - Happy Hour - Directions
Casa Bonita - For the Family - Directions
Jack-n-Grill - "Man-vs-Food" - Directions

ALEC After Party

Wondering What's On The Agenda Today?

Workshops

- 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM (Centennial A - Level 3) *The State of Oil and Natural Gas Regulations: Local Government vs. State Agencies & How the Industry can Best Balance Transparency and Safety*
- **1:45 PM - 3:00 PM (Centennial C - Level 3) *Getting the Opioid Crisis Right***
- 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM (Centennial A - Level 3) *Expanding Access to Dental Care in Medicaid Through Market-Based Solutions*
- 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM (Centennial C - Level 3) *The Future of Fossil Fuels: How Innovative Technologies will Lower Costs and Solve Environmental Objectives*

Receptions

- 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Agate A - Level 3) *Consumer Technology Association Hospitality Suite*
- 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM (Mineral D-E) *American City County Exchange Welcome Reception*
- 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM (Denver City Terrace-Level 5) *Women's Caucus Reception (Members Only)*
- 4:45 PM - 7:30 PM (Lobby) *Shuttles to/from Welcome Reception*
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (*Offsite Mile High Stadium)

Contact Courtney Cook for more information: ccook@alec.org

Click Here for the Subcommittee Meeting Schedule

ALEC CARE

ALEC CARE Demos in Denver

Contact Ashley Varner for more information: avarner@alec.org



CARE Demo Schedule

While you are making plans for your Task Force meetings, make sure to carve out some time for a quick, 20 - minute CARE demonstration.

If your Task Force meeting is on Thursday, our CARE team would be happy to reserve your spot during one of the Friday time-slots. If your Task force meeting falls on Friday, drop by during the Thursday line-up.



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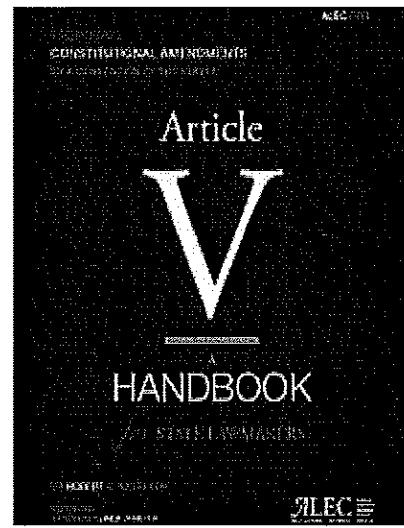
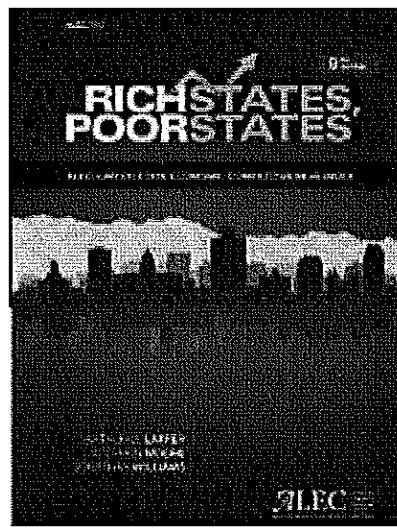
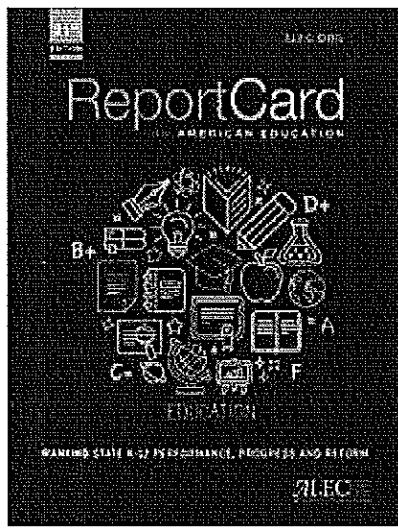
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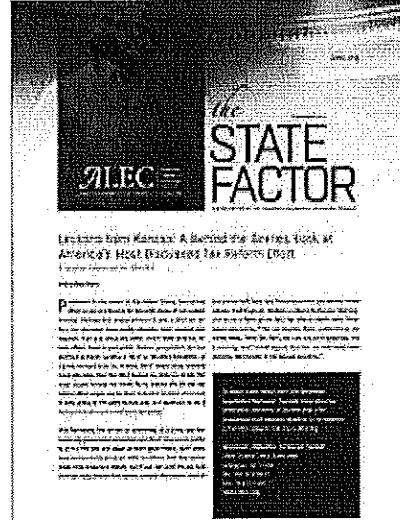
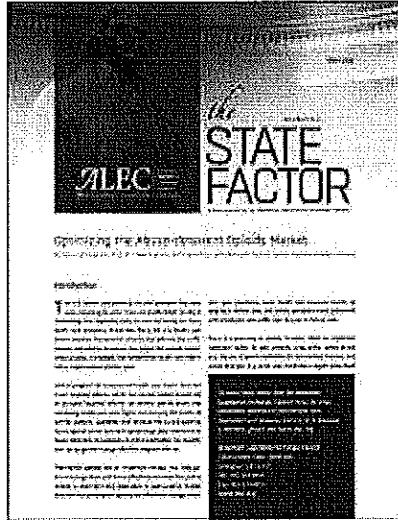
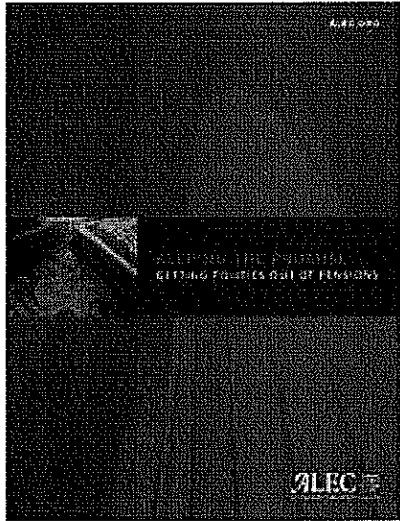


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4th ALEC Annual Meeting Library

Stop by the ALEC Library in Exhibition hall, outside of Centennial Ballroom for copies of **What Our Experts are Reading**





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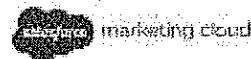
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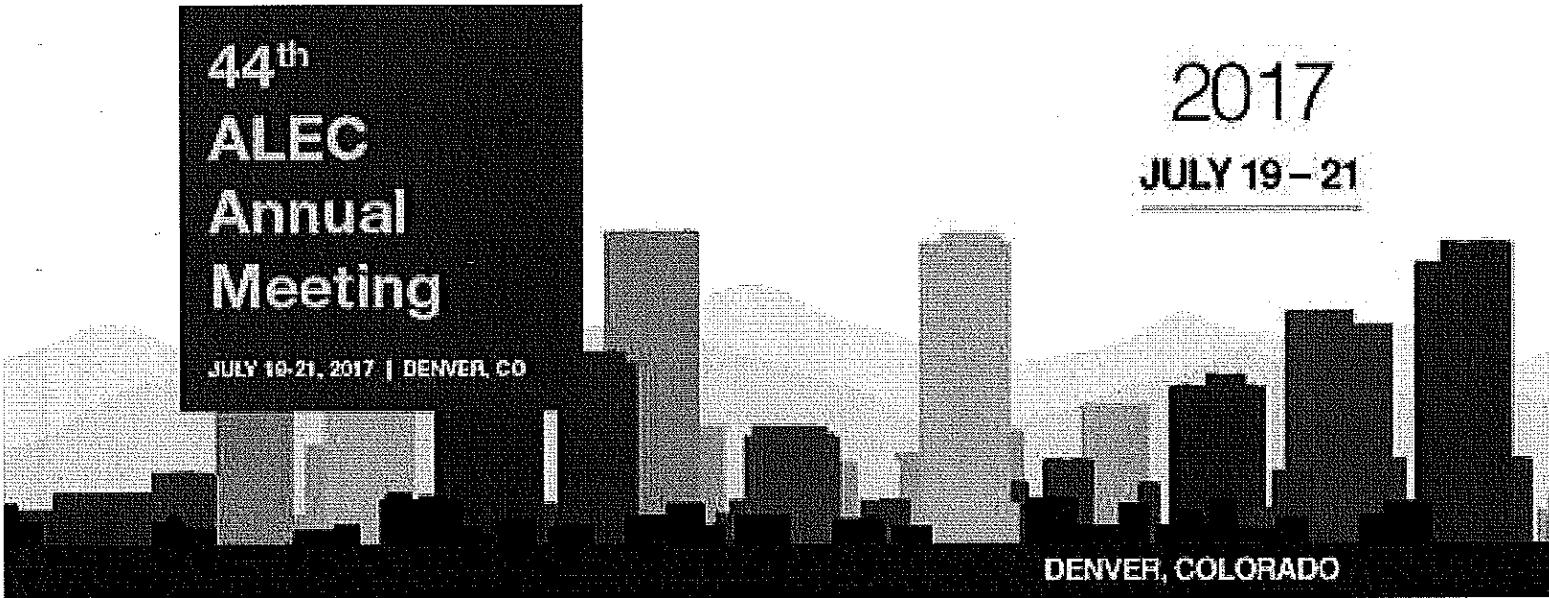
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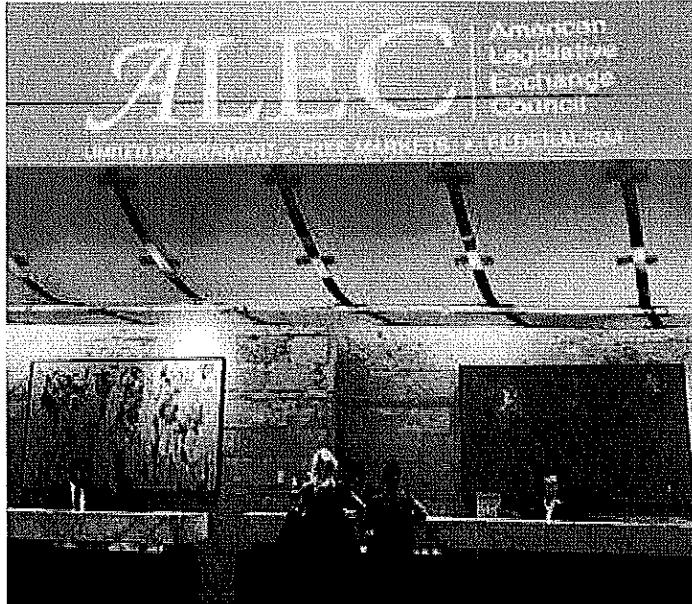
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44th ALEC Annual Meeting

ALEC Annual in the Mile High City in Full Swing

ALEC Social: Twitter [Alec_states](#) | Facebook | [@alec.states](#)



The 44th ALEC Annual Meeting is in full swing in the mile high city. On day two, we have already had a policy packed agenda with more than a few exciting appearances from the Administration and from our friends in the private sector. For a full recap and real time updates, follow ALEC on social

Click the links below to connect with us.

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Featured ALEC Member

Honoring Senator Leah Vukmir, the 2017 Iron Lady

Senator Leah Vukmir | 2017 ALEC Iron Lady



ALEC was proud to present Wisconsin Senator and long time ALEC member, Leah Vukmir with the ALEC Iron Lady award last night, during the Women's Caucus Reception. Senator Vukmir has served as a flawless example of what a women legislators aspire to be and young women everywhere look to become.

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Steve Forbes Talks Taxes, Property Rights and Health Care

Steve Forbes | #ALECinCo | 44th ALEC Annual Meeting



[Watch the Speech](#)

Steve Forbes Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, spoke to the ALEC standards on taxes, property right and Health Care policy, during the opening lunch plenary session.

[Click here for more.](#)



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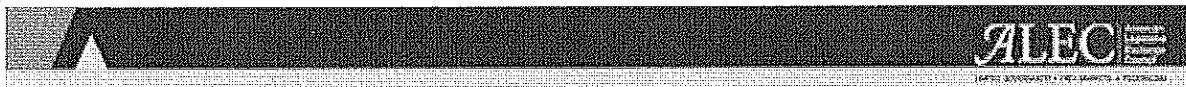
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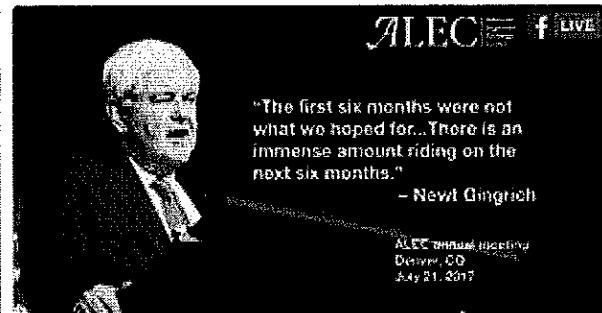
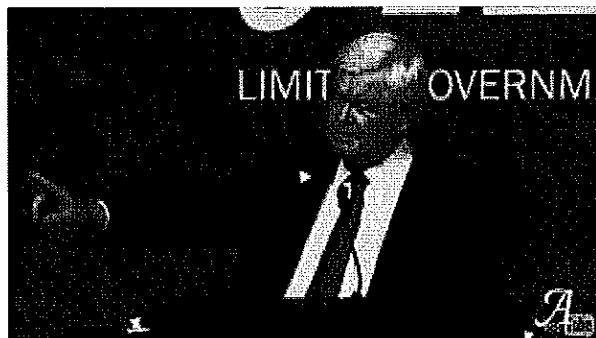
44th ALEC Annual Meeting: Recap



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ALEC Annual Meeting Highlights

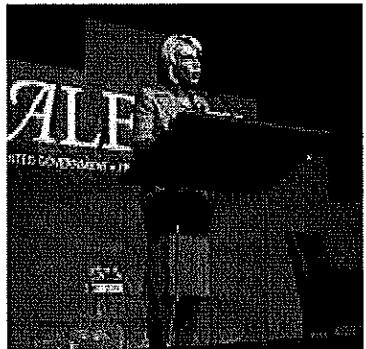
Three Cabinet Secretaries Setting Their Sights on the States

Education Secretary: Betsy DeVos | Labor Secretary: Alex Acosta | Interior Secretary: Ryan Zinke

Ed. Secretary Betsy DeVos

[Click here to watch the full speech](#)

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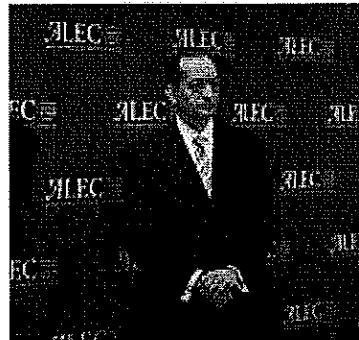


Ed. Secretary DeVos spoke to ALEC members about the importance of camps free speech and returning choice back to the states. [Click here](#) for front page, Denver Post Coverage.

[Watch the Full Speech](#)

Labor Sec. Alex Acosta

[Click here to watch the full speech](#)



Labor Secretary Alex Acosta, joined us in Denver - talking jobs and workforce development, Sec. Acosta offered a clear path to decreasing excessive occupational licensing for a stronger American workforce.

[Watch the Full Speech](#)

Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke

[Click here to see the highlights on Twitter](#)



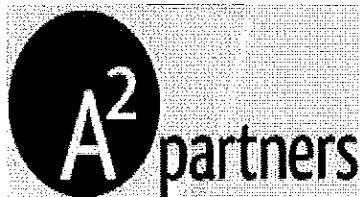
Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke joined ALEC in Denver. Not on horseback unfortunately, to discuss how we can conserve public lands and reminding our legislators to "never forget where you come from and who you represent".

[Click Here for More](#)

Annual Meeting Resources

Take Your Training Home - Click Below For a Copy of the Training Session Presentations

A2 Partners - Quorum - Jean Card Ink - District Media Group - Quorum



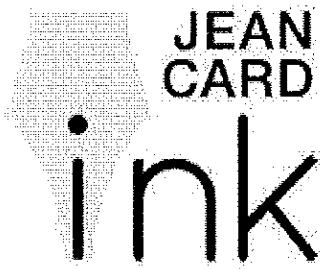
A2partners provided techniques and tools they have used to win campaigns and influence policy through effective advocacy and education efforts throughout the U.S. and around the world. Click below to grab A2partner's training session materials.



In this political landscape, legislators must seize the opportunity to engage on new platforms to share their message and legislative agenda through social media. Click below to grab Quorum's training session materials.

Get Your Copy

Get Your Copy



Writer and communications specialist Jean Card covered constructive constituent communications and public speaking in an interactive training session. Click below to learn new skills and gain a fresh perspective on how to keep constituents and other key audiences engaged.

Get Your Copy

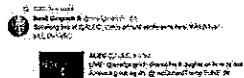
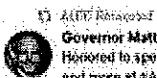


Media training focuses on the verbal, vocal and visual components of strong interviews. What you say and how you say it is critical to making sure your interview strikes a nerve and resonates with audiences. District Media Group teaches best practices for every media scenario. Click below for media tips.

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ALEC Annual Meeting in Action

Get the Full Scoop on Annual Media Through ALEC Social Media
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US Dept of Education • @USDeptOfEd • 2/29
Every Single Child. #ALECinCO

Our work will not be done until
every child in America
EVERY SINGLE CHILD
has an equal opportunity to a
world-class education.



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From: Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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Subject: State Leaders eNewsletter

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News from Congress for State Leaders

"The federal government did not create the states; the states created the federal government." -
President Ronald Reagan

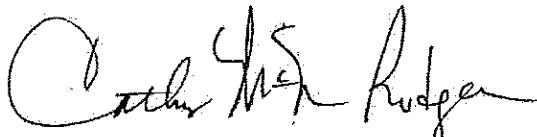
A note from GOP Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers:

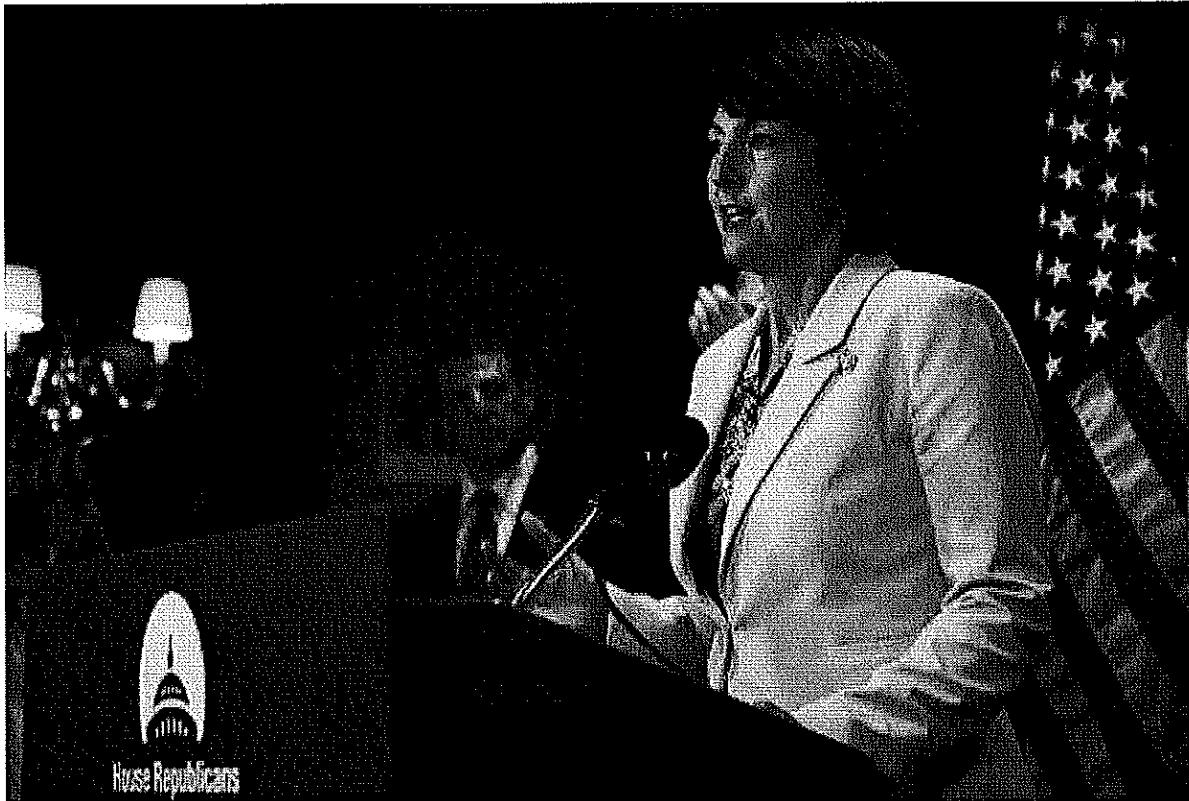
Welcome to our new eNewsletter, a resource to better connect you, state leaders, with what we are doing here in the People's House.

I've always believed that the ideas to fix our most pressing policy problems will be found in the states, not in Washington, D.C. I was a state legislator in Washington state during the welfare reform of the '90s. A shared belief that drove welfare reform then and is now driving how we approach big agenda items like health care reform is this: States, not the federal government, know how to best address the needs of the people they serve.

I look forward to working with state leaders on healthcare, tax reform, infrastructure, welfare reform, and more in the coming years. We have a historic opportunity in front of us with majorities in the state houses, governor's offices, the House and Senate, and White House.

Let's bring success stories from the states to the nation's capital and restore the proper balance of power between states and the federal government.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy McMorris Rodgers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Cathy" and "Rodgers" being more clearly legible than "McMorris".



House Republicans

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FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

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House GOP Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

The House Budget Committee passed the FY18 House Republican Budget out of committee last week. The FY18 Budget could be the likely reconciliation vehicle for tax reform, and it also details the Republican policy vision.

Summary: "Building a Better America" balances the budget within 10 years by cutting spending, reforming government, and growing the economy. The budget produces a \$9 billion surplus in fiscal year 2027.

The budget achieves \$6.5 trillion in total deficit reduction over 10 years.

This budget sets overall discretionary spending for fiscal year 2018 at \$1.132 trillion.

- \$621.5 billion in defense discretionary spending.
- \$511 billion in non-defense discretionary spending.

Federalism-- Restore the Balance of Power: The resolution encourages the innovation and creativity of State and local governments. It calls for returning significant authority to the States, which possess not only the ability but also the will to reform and modernize programs that serve their citizens.

State Flexibility in Healthcare:

- "Per capita cap" reforms put Medicaid on a budget, while providing states the freedom and flexibility to design their Medicaid programs in a way that best meets the unique needs of their citizens.
- Provides an optional waiver for Obamacare regulations. This provision gives states the option of requesting a waiver from certain Obamacare regulations to reduce costs and increase coverage options.

Welfare Reform:

- Strengthens welfare work requirements.

- Promotes state flexibility with SNAP to tailor programs to the state's needs.
- Enforces SNAP work requirements.

Education and Workforce Development

- Reinforces recently enacted legislation, the "Every Student Succeeds Act," which intends to scale back Federal overreach into local education decisions. It consolidates or eliminates 49 duplicative, restrictive, or poor-performing programs, in favor of one grant program.
- Reforms workforce development programs. Our budget calls for further consolidation of duplicative Federal workforce development programs and improved coordination with the reformed workforce development system. In tandem with these efforts, it also supports efforts to ensure career and technical education programs empower state and local leaders in educating students for high-demand, high-skill jobs.

Environmental Regulation:

- Reduces and refocuses Environmental Protection Agency funding. The EPA continues to use its budget to implement its unprecedented activist regulatory policy, to the detriment of states, localities, small businesses, and energy consumers. The budget reduces annual funding levels for the EPA to allow the agency to focus on its core mission of enforcing laws passed by Congress rather than attempting to re-write them through regulations.
- Eliminates the EPA Office of Regulatory Policy and Management. This office provides support and guidance for the EPA's national and regional offices in developing regulations. According to the EPA website, a primary function of this office is to = 2manage the Agency's policy priority agenda." As an executive agency created merely to enforce congressional statutes, the EPA should have no policy priority agenda at all.
- Streamlines Climate Change research across government. This budget resolution reduces spending for numerous climate-change-related activities and research, primarily by reducing

overlapping or unproductive policies. It also recommends better coordination of programs and funds to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary spending. Many of these programs receive funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] as well as the EPA.

Promoting Job Creation: Provides reconciliation instructions for fundamental tax reform that will lower rates, simplify the code, and incentivize employers to hire and grow.

Calls for major reform of regulations that hold back job creation and innovation.

Cutting Spending and Reforming Government: This budget gives reconciliation instructions to 11 House committees to achieve at least \$203 billion in mandatory savings and reforms.

This budget also aims to reduce government-wide improper payments by \$700 billion.

ReadBalancedBudget.gop

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE UPDATE

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Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs Holds First Hearing

WATCH the Task Force's First Hearing

In May, Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced the creation of the Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs, a bipartisan group of lawmakers focused on

balancing the interests between federal, state, and local governments. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) has been appointed Chairman of the Task Force.

On June 22, 2017, the newly formed Task Force held its inaugural hearing: ***Local Perspectives: Examining the Current State of Intergovernmental Relations***. Hearing witnesses were National Governors Association CEO & Executive Director Scott Pattison, National Association of Counties President & Leon County, FL, Commissioner Bryan Desloge, and the Council of State Governments - Tennessee Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris.

Task Force Mission:

1. Partner with states, tribes, and local governments to balance the interests of governments
2. Provide a forum for states, cities, and counties to showcase their innovation and creativity in solving public policy problems
3. Examine the effects of federal rules and regulations on state and local partners
4. Develop proposals to partner with and empower states, tribes, local governments, private institutions, families and individuals
5. Examine the extent to which the burdens shared among states, tribes and local governments may be re-allocated to improve the quality of life in all communities

Membership:

CHAIRMAN: Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)

REPUBLICANS:

Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL)
Rep. Luke Messer (R-IN)
Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC)
Rep. John Culberson (R-TX)
Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY)
Rep. Jenniffer González-Colón (R-PR)

DEMOCRATS:

Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)
Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)
Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA)
Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA)
Rep. Anthony Brown (D-MD)
Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL)

ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE TASK FORCE

Western Governors' Association
National Association of Counties
National Governors Association
Council of State Governments
National Conference of State Legislatures
National League of Cities
U.S. Conference of Mayors
International City/County Management Association
National Congress of American Indians
Western Governors' Association
National Association of State Treasurers

[Watch the Hearing](#)

STATE BRIGHT SPOTS

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States Look to Healthcare Waivers:

States are not waiting for the federal government to fix all of the problems with the failing health insurance markets in their states and are instead forging ahead with 1115 Medicaid waivers and 1332 state innovation waivers.

Indiana is seeking an 1115 Medicaid waiver for reforms to its Healthy Indiana 2.0 plan. The waiver request now includes a work requirement for able-bodied adult beneficiaries.

HHS Secretary Tom Price and the Trump administration approved the first 1332 state innovation waiver to allow Alaska to create a program that will cover claims in the individual insurance market for people who have one or more of 33 "high cost conditions." (Source: CNBC)

Minnesota and a few other states have submitted 1332 waivers to establish similar state reinsurance programs.

Big Pension Reforms in PA and MI:

Pennsylvania's pension reform legislation (SB 1) will enroll new state employees and school teachers in a side-by-side hybrid plan consisting of a defined benefit component and a 401(k)-style

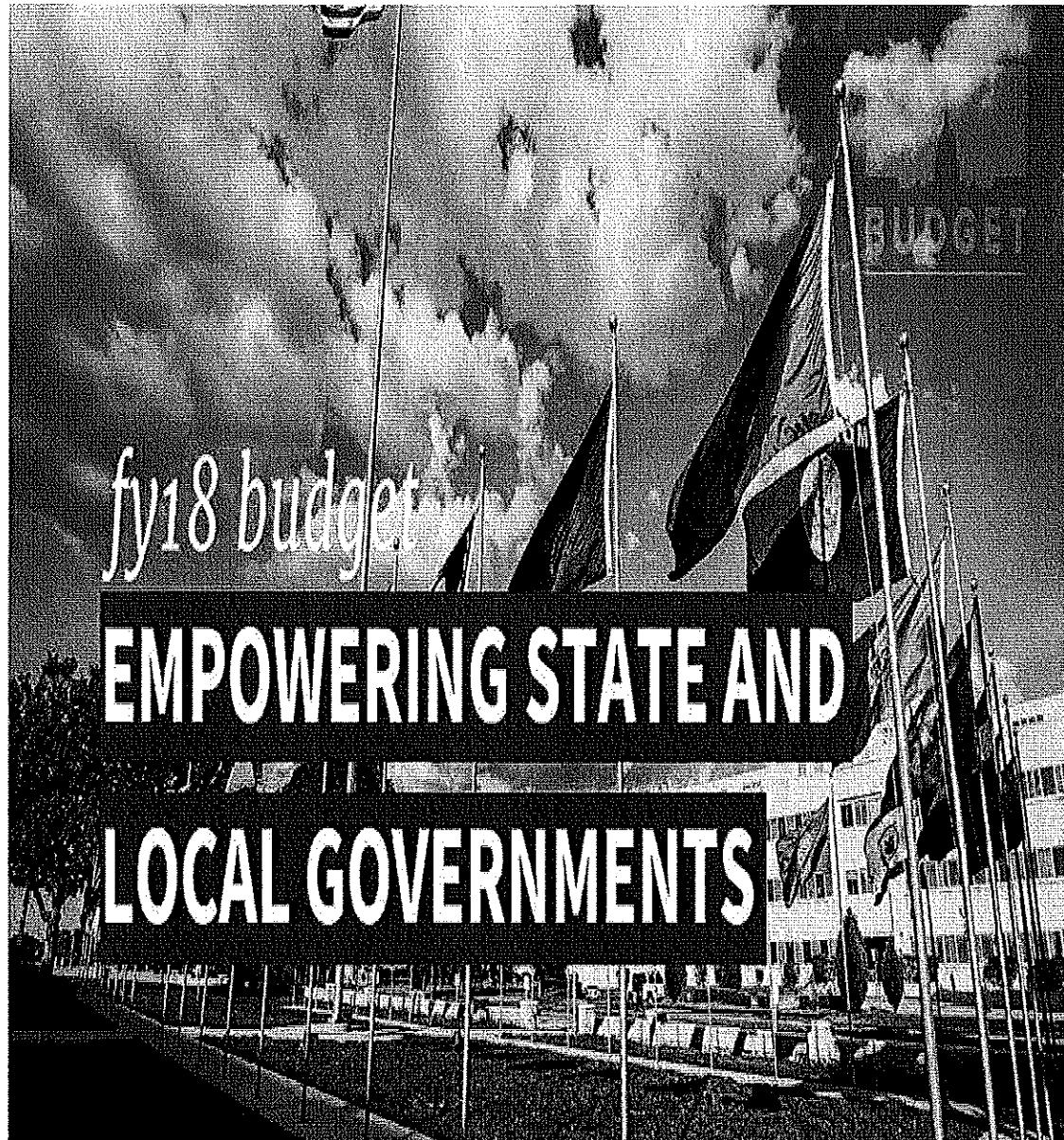
component. New employees could also choose to enroll solely in the 401(k)-style plan, and current employees could choose to opt in to the new system. According to a report from the state's Independent Fiscal Office, the enacted reform will reduce taxpayers' pension risk by approximately two-thirds.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signed legislation reforming the state's teacher pension system today, a move financial experts at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy said is more significant than any pension reform achieved in other states. Senate Bill 401 restricts politicians and bureaucrats from adding new unfunded liabilities to the \$29.1 billion already accrued by the Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System.

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TOPLINE MESSAGES

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budget

FY18

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

A plan for fiscal responsibility

BALANCES IN

**10
YEARS**

TOTAL DEFICIT
REDUCTION

**\$6.5
TRILLION**

MILITARY
INCREASE

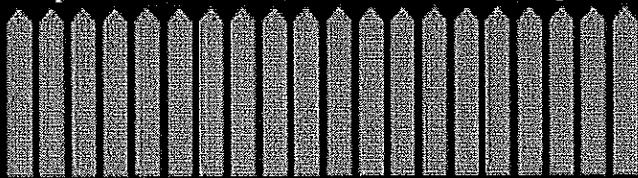
**\$72.4
BILLION**

provides for a **STRONG
NATIONAL
DEFENSE**



follows the path to
**REPEAL & REPLACE
OBAMACARE**

funds homeland security



triggers reconciliation for:



tax reform



deficit reduction

*modernizes
TRANSPORTATION*



reduces



*inefficiency,
duplicative programs,
improper payments.*

cuts

red tape / regulations

For more information:



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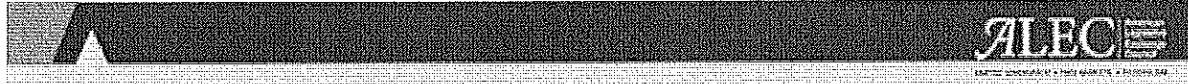
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Digital Exchange: July 27, 2017

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Click below to watch President Ronald Reagan speak to members of the American Legislative Exchange Council upon receiving the Thomas Jefferson Award.

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ALEC In The News

ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech Supports Protesters in Denver
Shelby Emmett | Center to Protect Free Speech | A Sarah Wood Production



Despite disagreements, the ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech was proud to support the First Amendment rights of the protesters at our Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

[Click here for more.](#)



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ALEC In Denver

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos Addresses ALEC 44th Annual Meeting

Betsy DeVos | Education | 44th Annual Meeting



Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos talks education reform and bringing choice back to the states at the 44th Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

[Click here for more.](#)



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ALEC in the States

Generations of Opportunity: Right to Work

Kansas | Right to Work



Click below to see how policies that promote worker's rights, like Right to Work are transforming states across the nation.

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Dear friends,

The incredible ALEC meeting in Denver last week sent many of us home with a new understanding of the power we have to affect change across the nation and deliver real results to our local communities. What we heard when we were together was a clear **opportunity agenda for 2018** and beyond. We can make a real difference right now. By pursuing tax cuts; workforce development; labor, occupational licensing, and criminal justice reforms in our states, we can deliver measurable success and lead the nation into the 2018.

But more powerful than our ability to legislate or innovate as individuals is our ability to deliver real results to our local communities by—with a single, strong, national voice—calling for genuine accountability and a real plan of action to deliver meaningful reforms at the federal level. During the 2016 election cycle, nearly every presidential candidate spoke about returning power to the states, and to the people.

Now, quite simply, it's up to us to take the power that's been offered. It's time to lead.

Ours is not a revolution to wrest control from the federal government—certainly there are countless cases where a federal government is good and necessary. Ours instead is a rebalancing where local state legislators who are closer to their communities and fight daily to protect hardworking taxpayers have more of a voice in the direction of our country.

Each of us has a voice. If we work together and echo one another to advance an **opportunity agenda** at the state and federal level, we can very quickly deliver real results. At the ALEC meeting, Governor Bevin called the approach "Shock and Awe." On one January day, the Kentucky Legislature sent seven bills including right-to-work and other key reforms to Governor Bevin's desk. Kentucky legislators achieved their bold goal by working together and fostering partnership between both houses and the Governor's office long in advance of the votes. You see, as Speaker Gingrich said in Denver, "If we collectively take up this challenge, we can make it dramatically easier to change America."

At the beginning of this Congress, the federal legislature also set forth several bold goals; among them

healthcare and tax reform. Because healthcare makes up one-sixth of the American economy and the taxes people pay fund everything from street lights, roads and bridges to public employee pensions and interest payments on debt, healthcare and tax reform are very bold goals. And it hasn't worked quite as we imagined. There is conflict around these reforms because there are real issues at stake. And, that's to be expected.

In Denver, Speaker Gingrich proposed a more simple, incremental approach—one that will help normal folks, not tax economists—understand the value of a tax system that protects hardworking taxpayers instead of treating them like an ATM. The most simple and immediate tax reform that we can achieve this year is a tax cut on individuals and on business.

Our plan of action starts here: Federal tax cuts on individuals and businesses will let people keep more of their hard-earned money and help business owners reinvest in training, expansion and wage increases. A recent poll of 500 small business owners conducted by the Job Creators Network shows how tax cuts for small businesses directly benefits hardworking citizens. A full 70 percent of small businesses would reinvest tax cuts back into their business and employees through capital investments, wage increases, new hiring and expansions. Further, nearly half of small business owners responded by saying a tax cut is the policy reform that would help their business the most.

We have just suffered through the weakest economic recovery since World War II. The American people want to work. They are leading the technology revolution and ready for a new industrial revolution focused on advanced manufacturing and innovation. But, the unbridled power of American exceptionalism has been constrained for too long by over taxation, over regulation and too much red tape.

Imagine for a moment what the country would look like if states—in partnership with Congress—truly led the way on issues like tax cuts. It's not that hard to imagine really: In the past four years, 30 states have cut taxes. Nine states have no income tax at all. No income tax states grew 111 percent faster than the nine states with the highest income tax, and private sector job growth increased 28 percent faster.

I ask you to imagine, but it really isn't that hard. States are already leading the way. Washington, D.C. simply must follow. But they won't know where to go unless we tell them. It's our time to lead. We simply can't let this opportunity pass.

So, now I'm going to ask you to do a few things. They will help you join in our plan of action and accountability that puts our local communities first. You don't have to do them right away because they will take a little time, but please commit right now to doing the following:

1. Watch or re-watch the following speeches from Annual Meeting:

- Speaker Newt Gingrich on Tax Cuts, local power and understanding Trump
- Governor Matt Bevin and Travis Brown on labor reform and workforce development
- Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta on occupational licensing and workforce development

2. Read the following briefs:

- The Jonathan Williams Tax Cut memo
- The ALEC Tax Cut Round Ups, to learn how tax cuts benefited 30 states
- The 10th Edition of *Rich States, Poor States*

3. Share this perspective with your local communities and your congressional delegation

4. Join upcoming ALEC organizing calls in September and October so we are all ready and

committed to the 2018 opportunity agenda.

Thank you for your commitment to ALEC, to our founding principles of limited government, free markets and federalism and to the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Buck
Indiana, District 21
2017 ALEC National Chairman

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Center to Protect Free Speech - August 1, 2017

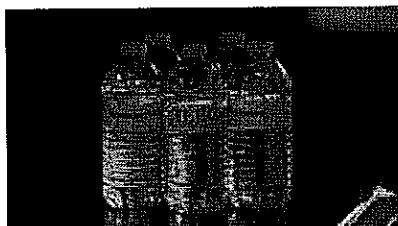


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ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech Supports Protesters in Denver
Shelby Emmett | Center to Protect Free Speech



The ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech was proud to support the First Amendment rights of the protesters at our Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. We even gave them water bottles from ALEC that said "Quenching your thirst for free speech"

[Watch the Full Video](#)

ALEC on Campus For Free Speech

ALEC Director Shelby Emmett Talks Campus Speech at YAL2017
Shelby Emmett | @spartanshelby | YAL2017



ALEC Center Director Shelby Emmett, encourages members of Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) at their annual conference - prompting them to reach across ideological lines to raise awareness and concern for speech issues on their campus.

[Click here for more.](#)



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ALEC Events Update

"First Fridays" Conference Call - August 11, 2017

[Shelby Emmett](#) | Center to Protect Free Speech | [RSVP Here](#)



On Friday, August 11th at 11 AM EDT the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next "First Fridays" conference call. Please join Center Director Shelby Emmett for a review of the free speech events at ALEC's Annual Meeting!

[Click here for more.](#)



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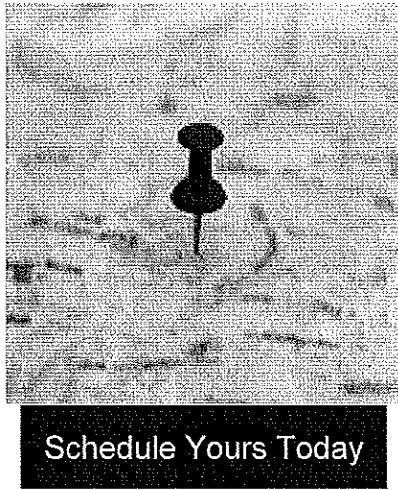


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What We're Doing in the States

Have a Free Speech Issue Briefing in Your State

Contact Shelby Emmett for more information: semmett@alec.org



We are currently holding a series of free speech issue briefings for state legislators at state capitols across the United States! These briefings cover the issues of campus speech, donor privacy and commercial speech. We have already held briefings in South Carolina, Michigan and Utah and have several additional briefings scheduled for the fall.

If you are interested in having an issue briefing in your state on free speech, click below and Shelby Emmett will reach out to you soon.

Contact Shelby Emmett: semmett@alec.org



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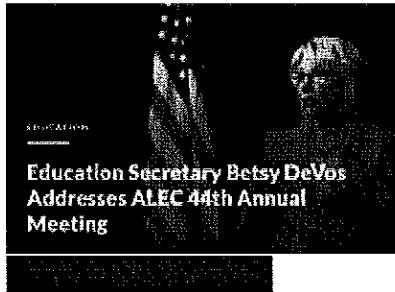


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44th ALEC Annual Meeting

DeVos Urges State Legislators to Take on Foes of Campus Speech

The Washington Times | Campus Speech | Ed. Secretary DeVos



The Washington Times covered ALEC's new campus speech model policy, the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act.

"Shelby Emmett, director of ALEC's Center to Protect Free Speech, said the proposed policy differs from others that require free speech education only for incoming freshmen. 'Obviously, there's a problem with free speech on campus well before freshmen arrive if you have administrators or campus police officers who think you can detain or arrest or suspend a student because they passed out a Constitution,' said Ms. Emmett. 'I think it's easy to go after the students, but this is a cultural problem.'"



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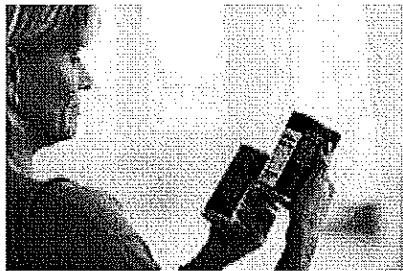


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Featured Center Resource

Three (Quick!) Lessons for Legislators About Commercial Speech

Shelby Emmett | Commercial Speech



[Read the Full Article](#)

"Proceed with caution when limiting or compelling commercial speech, the Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) warns....In this easy-to-read two-page document, Megan L. Brown and Bert W. Rein provide three key lessons summarizing how the courts have interpreted commercial speech laws and regulations and what legislators should keep in mind when tackling commercial speech issues in the future"

[Click here for more.](#)



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44th ALEC Annual Meeting Wrap-up

The Center to Protect Free Speech - Annual Meeting Wrap-up

#ALECinCO | Shelby Emmett: semmett@alec.org | 44th ALEC Annual Meeting

- During the State Leadership Academy held directly before ALEC's Annual Meeting, Shelby Emmett participated in a lively discussion regarding donor privacy on a panel moderated by State Policy Network CEO Tracie Sharp. Attending were legislative leaders from 19 states.
- Shelby Emmett, Center director and former state and Congressional hill staffer, talked to legislative staff from 20 states about campus speech and donor privacy. The Center was very excited to meet so many legislative staff from across the country who are passionate about protecting the free speech rights of their constituents.
- During an engaging panel discussion on the importance of commercial speech to the free market economy, members of the Civil Justice Task Force learned that protecting commercial speech is about keeping the government from standing in the way of entrepreneurial endeavors. When overregulation gets in the way of businesses marketing truthful information or forces them to disclose information that will do nothing to cure deceptive practices, it is overstepping the First Amendment and problematically limiting consumer choice. The Center was happy to team up with Amy Anderson, director of the Civil Justice Task Force to moderate the commercial speech panel. The Center would like to thank all the panel participants and the members of the task force for such an incredible welcome.
- The Center to Protect Free Speech and the Civil Justice Task Force conducted a reception and focus group on donor privacy to learn more about how they can help state legislators on this issue. Thank you to our public sector members for attending the focus group. Your valuable insight helps us each and every day.

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Digital Exchange - August 3, 2017



ALEC in the News

Accurate Representation of ALEC on National Public Radio

ALEC Mentions | NPR | Transparency

ASSOCIATED PRESS: ALEC, ACCE Among the Most Prominent Conservative Groups

Nicholas Riccardi | Associated Press | ACCE



TELL YOUR COLLEAGUES: On nationally syndicated NPR show *The 1A* yesterday, Reid Wilson of *The Hill* redirected a question about ALEC "secrecy" by saying "It's funny. They're not so secretive anymore." From 33:13 to 34:28 he goes on to accurately discuss what ALEC does and how ALEC works. Earlier in the segment he discusses the pitfalls of poorly drafted ballot initiatives versus policy drafted by professional legislative drafting lawyers. Please listen to this segment.
[Click here for more.](#)



SHARE THIS STORY: A recent Associated Press article from the ALEC Annual Meeting called ALEC one of the most prominent conservative groups in the country and profiled the growth and need for the American City County Exchange. This is an excellent story to like, post and share with your colleagues at the local and state level.

[Click here for more.](#)

[Read the Full Article](#)

[Listen to the Recording](#)

State Reform Spotlight

Kentucky is Leading the Way on Labor and Regulatory Reform

Regulatory Reform | Kentucky

Cutting the Red Tape in Kentucky



[Watch the Full Video](#)

Generations of Opportunity: Right to Work



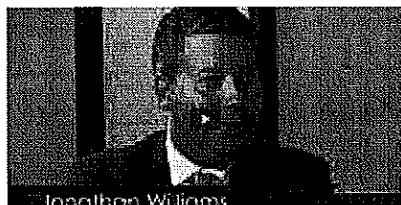
[Watch the Full Video](#)

Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin stresses the importance of cutting red tape and shows how Kentucky has experienced growth by enacting reforms like right to work.

Expert Opinion

Chief Economist Jonathan Williams on Wichita Liberty TV

Jonathan Williams | Wichita Liberty TV | Tax Reform



Jonathan Williams

[Watch the Segment](#)

Chief Economist Jonathan Williams sits down with Bob Weeks of Wichita Liberty TV to discuss ALEC, ACCE and recent work.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Insight

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Kim Thatcher | OR-13



[Read the Full Bio](#)

Senator Kim Thatcher is a long-time Oregonian joining the Oregon State House of Representatives in 2004. She is currently serving her first term representing the 13th Senate District in Oregon and resides in Keizer, OR with her husband, Karl, and her teenage son. She is the mother of four, and grandmother of five. Sen. Thatcher is an avid contributor to her community as a church volunteer, Cubmaster, and member of three Chambers of Commerce.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Featured ALEC Member

Rice, Rice Baby!

Josh Veronica | International Trade | USDA



[Read the Full Article](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a landmark trade agreement with China—a major victory for U.S. farmers and for the Trump administration.

The deal "allow[s] the United States to begin exporting rice to China for the first time ever." The United States already exports half of the rice it produces, but prior trade barriers have kept U.S. rice farmers from reaching their full export potential.

[Click here for more.](#)



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ALEC Events Update

"First Fridays" Conference Call - August 11, 2017

Shelby Emmett | Center to Protect Free Speech | [RSVP Here](#)



[Click Here to RSVP](#)

On Friday, August 11th at 11 AM EDT the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next "First Fridays" conference call. Please join Center Director Shelby Emmett for a review of the free speech events at the ALEC Annual Meeting.

[Click here for more.](#)



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44th ALEC Annual Meeting - Survey

If you joined us in Denver for the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting, please take a moment to tell us how we did. Your feedback is important and will help us build on our most successful meeting to date.

[Complete Your Survey](#)

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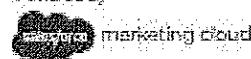
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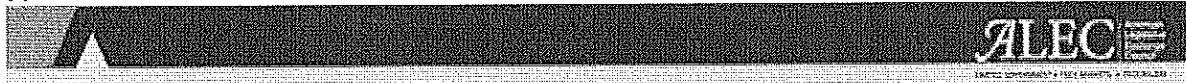
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Center for State Fiscal Reform - August 8, 2017



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It's Time for Real Tax Cuts

Jonathan Williams | Memo | Federal Tax Reform



Because hardworking taxpayers need to be protected, instead of simply shifting the tax burden through tax reform, it's time for real tax cuts at the federal level... [\(more\)](#)

ALEC In The News

Chief Economist Jonathan Williams on Wichita Liberty TV 0

Jonathan Williams | Wichita Liberty TV | Tax Reform

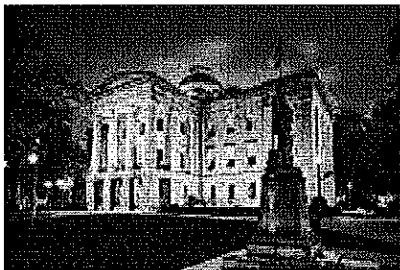


Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform Jonathan Williams sits down with Bob Weeks of Wichita Liberty TV to discuss the ALEC mission and recent work.... ([watch the full segment](#))

State Budget Spotlight

North Carolina Accelerates Broad-Based Tax Relief

Elliot Young | Budget Reform



North Carolina Senate Leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore revealed details of a compromise consisting of a \$23 billion budget and \$530 million in tax relief package ... ([more](#))

Expert Insight

Bad News for Illinois

Chris Woodward | Budget Reform



Recent actions in Illinois may result in more people leaving the state. Last week, the Illinois Legislature voted to override Republican Governor Bruce Rauner's veto of a spending plan and income tax increase ... ([more](#))

Expert Opinion

The Time for Pension Reform is Now

Bob Williams | Huffington Post | Pension Reform



Over the past month, Michigan and Pennsylvania lawmakers joined a handful of other states in passing meaningful pension reform. It's high time for the rest of the nation to follow their lead. Unfunded pension liabilities today are pushing many cities close to bankruptcy; state pension plans are similarly in dubious fiscal health... [\(more\)](#)

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House Republicans

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News from Congress for State Leaders

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Did you know that the House of Representatives has passed more than 269 bills this year?

You won't hear that story told when you turn on the TV. For example, the same day the House passed a bill to overhaul Dodd-Frank and end big bank bailouts was the same day former FBI Director James Comey testified in front of the Senate.

Guess which got more media coverage?

With the media attention on the latest countdown clock or palace intrigue story, the real stories about the House's efforts go untold. Despite the distractions, the House is advancing solutions that put the priorities of the American people first.

Here are five key areas where we've made an impact:

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- 1. Cutting the Red Tape
- 2. Main Street Jobs & Economic Security
- 3. Patient-Centered Health Care
- 4. Keeping Americans Safe
- 5. Taking Care of Our Heroes

[Read more details from the Daily Signal](#)



CathyMcMorrisRodgers

@cathymcmorris

▼

#DidYouKnow the @HouseGOP has moved forward on solutions that improve every corner of our economy? Learn more:

DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know?

We're focused on issues that matter to you. And our record proves it.

didyouknow.gop

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FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

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31 Days of Tax Reform

It has been 31 years since we passed meaningful federal tax reforms. During the 31 days of August, House Republicans will be sharing 31 facts to gear up for the coming plan to reform our tax code. Here are some key points:

- Thirty-one years ago, President Reagan signed tax reform into law. Since then, our tax code has become so big and so broken that it now discourages job creation and investment in the U.S., stands in the way of hardworking Americans' earning a raise and getting ahead, hurts Main Street small businesses, and weighs down our economy.
- Americans across the country have made it clear: 2017 is the year for permanent, pro-growth tax reform that creates jobs, increases paychecks, and grows the economy here at home, while strengthening America's competitiveness around the world.
- House Republicans have been working for years on bold ideas to overhaul our nation's broken tax code. Now, with the Trump Administration, the House, and the Senate working together, we are on track to deliver transformational tax reform legislation to the President's desk, this year, for the first time in over three decades.

The House Republican Tax Reform Blueprint

37,586
NEW FULL TIME JOBS

\$5,850
INCREASE IN INCOME FOR
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLDS

WASHINGTON

WAYSANDMEANS.HOUSE.GOV/TAXREFORM

REASONS TO SUPPORT TAX REFORM

#1

Today, small and closely held businesses create roughly half of all jobs in the United States. Yet, these businesses are currently taxed at rates as high as 44.6 percent. Starting and sustaining a small business in America is difficult enough. Our broken tax code only makes it harder by forcing Main Street job creators to send so much of their income to Washington.

REDUCE TAXES
FOR MAIN
STREET JOB
CREATORS

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Fall Agenda Look Ahead

The House and Senate are out of session and back in their districts until September. Looking ahead, the fall will be packed with aggressive agenda items and deadlines on the calendar.

The "Big Six" have all made public statements about getting started in September on a united campaign for federal tax reform for the first time in three decades. Some of the other items you can keep an eye out for in September/October:

- Government Funding (appropriations)
- Debt Limit
- Reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program
- Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program
- The FY18 Budget Resolution
- Continuing work to find a legislative solution that both the House and Senate can agree upon to repeal and replace Obamacare

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STATE RESOURCES

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State Resources on Tax Reform:

Tax Foundation Papers

- Federal Tax Reform: The Impact on States "Federal tax reform does not just impact the federal government and its revenue collections; state revenues are also affected by tax reform. States largely use the federal Internal Revenue Code as the basis of their state taxes. Changes to definitions of income, through base broadening, would flow downward to state-level taxes, impacting state revenues. In general, states should expect to see an increase in revenue from federal tax reform efforts, but in the few cases where revenue changes could result in lower revenues, state policymakers have a number of policy options available to them to ease the transition to a new tax structure..."
- The State-by-State Impact on Jobs and Family Incomes of the House GOP Blueprint "Using the Tax Foundation's Taxes and Growth (TAG) macroeconomic tax model, our analysis found that the "plan would significantly reduce the cost of capital and reduce the marginal tax rate on labor. These changes in the incentives to work and invest would greatly increase the U.S. economy's size in the long run, boost wages, and result in more full-time equivalent jobs..."

American Legislative Exchange Council Memo

"Because hardworking taxpayers need to be protected, instead of simply shifting the tax burden through tax reform, it's time for real tax cuts at the federal level. For years, states have been leading the way and providing substantial tax relief. Federal tax cut efforts should follow sound principles and lessons learned from successful

tax relief efforts at the state level. These case studies show that substantial tax relief yields a healthy economy, job growth and greater take-home pay." ([Read More](#))= A

TOPLINE MESSAGES

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THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE IS PASSING BILLS FOCUSED ON YOU AND THE ISSUES THAT MATTER MOST.



- Tougher Enforcement of Immigration Laws
- More Resources for Military Readiness
- Repeal and Replace of Obamacare



- Restart of the School Choice Program
- Permanent Pro-Life Protections



- Replace Dodd-Frank with Main Street Relief
- Expansion of Skills-Based Education
- Increased Energy Resources

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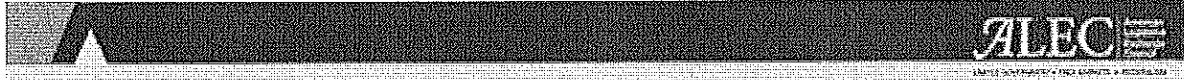
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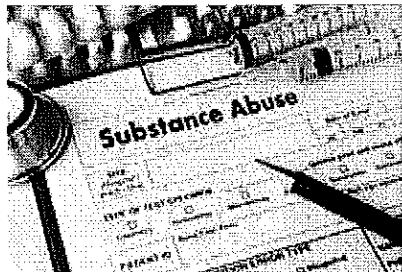
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While Progressives Protest, ALEC is Working to Stop the Opioid Crisis

Matt Vespa | Reporter, *Townhall*

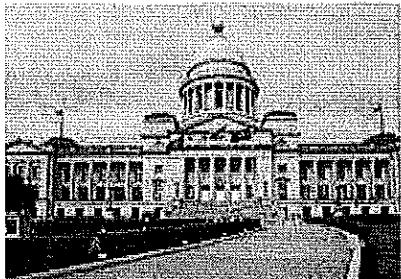


A recent *Townhall* article offers a first-hand account of ALEC's workshops on addiction from the July Annual Meeting. Matt Vespa provides a pointed list of how ALEC is working with the states to combat the opioid crisis... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Opinion

Arkansas Fumbles the Ball With Fantasy Sports Tax

Elliot Young | Regulatory Reform



Arkansas joined thirteen other states that have legalized betting on fantasy sports contests. ALEC's Elliot Young opposes singling out this industry for what he calls, "discriminatory taxation"... [\(more\)](#)

NEW: ALEC Video

Donor Disclosure in an Age of No Privacy

Sarah Wood | Free Speech



Guy Benson, Darcy Olsen and Pete Coors addressed the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting on donor disclosure in an age of no privacy... [\(watch video\)](#)

Expert Insight

Thou Shalt Not Steel

Joseph "Cy" Tongate | International Trade

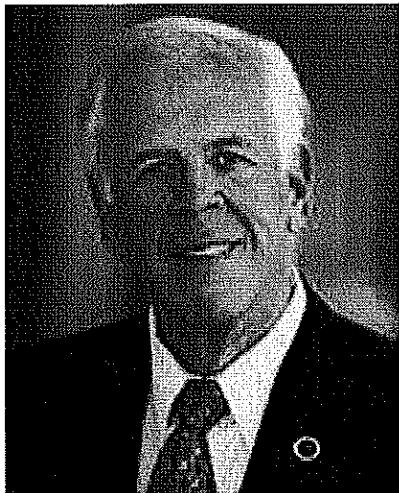


The Trump Administration announced they are delaying action on whether to impose tariffs on steel imports. For years, the U.S. steel industry claims illegal dumping has shuttered mills resulting in massive job losses... [\(more\)](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Representative Bill Taylor | SC-86



Representative Bill Taylor of South Carolina was first elected to the General Assembly in 2010. He serves on the Education and Public Works Committee and is Chairman of the Higher Education subcommittee. [\(more\)](#)

2017 ALEC Member Survey

As we enter our 45th year as the leading state legislative, free market organization and begin the next strategic planning process, you can play an integral role in our future by sharing your thoughts—by taking the 2017 ALEC member survey. Please take 20 minutes to complete the ALEC member survey. It's among the most important things you can do to ensure ALEC continues to grow and serve legislators and stakeholders as it has done for more than two generations.

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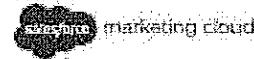
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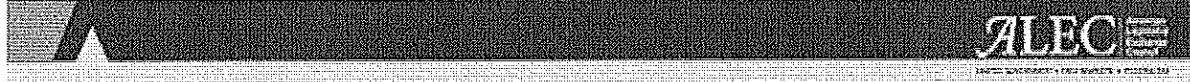
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Events and Education - August 15, 2017



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[Complete Your Survey](#)

ALEC Headline News

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Americans Need Tax Cuts, Plain and Simple

Jonathan Williams | *The Hill*



ALEC Chief Economist Jonathan Williams writes how America has "fallen behind by simply standing still," in his latest piece in *The Hill*. He goes on to write that the key to making America competitive again is simple: simplify the tax code... [\(more\)](#)

Will Congress Censor Reddit in the Name of Combating Sex Trafficking?

Jonathon Hauenschild | *The Hill*



ALEC Communications and Technology Task Force Director Jonathon Hauenschild offers two different approaches companies like Reddit, Facebook, Twitter and Amazon might take to combat online sex trafficking... [\(more\)](#)

Trouble Draining the Swamp? Try Returning Power Back to the States

Taylor McCarty | *The Hill*



ALEC Public Affairs team member Taylor McCarty sounds the warning of our founding fathers in her column in *The Hill*. McCarty writes, "Power must be returned from the unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats of the political class as well as the legislature....to truly drain the swamp, and return power to the states"... [\(more\)](#)

ALEC Events Update

August - September Look Ahead

Free Speech | Tax Reform

- **Center to Protect Free Speech - "First Fridays" Call will return in September.** Please join the Center in September for a back-to-school themed call that will focus campus speech and the Forming Open and Robust Minds (FORUM) Act with special guest Casey Mattox of Alliance Defending Freedom... [\(RSVP HERE\)](#)
- **Center for State Fiscal Reform - Keep an eye on your inbox.** With federal tax reform on the rise, the Center will be hosting a series of weekly interactive calls on federal tax cut and reform legislation. These will serve to provide timely updates on progress as well as to solicit feedback from our legislators and private sector members.

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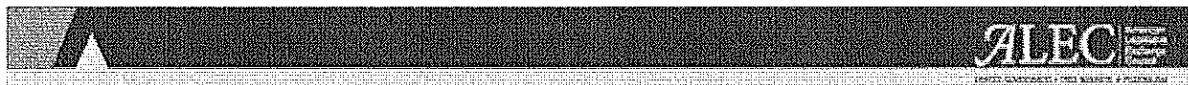
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From: Senator Jim Buck
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 8:01 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: The fight is not over, let's work together to repeal and replace Obamacare

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August 16, 2017



Dear State
Leaders:

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform the U.S. healthcare system. Through a combination of deregulation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and legislative action in Congress, ALEC supports enacting public policies that will create a patient-centered healthcare system that grants maximum authority to states in how they regulate their insurance markets, as well as reform each state's Medicaid program. On behalf of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), I am requesting all ALEC members reach out to your elected officials in Congress and *strongly urge* them to continue their efforts to arrive at a compromise to

repeal and
replace the
Affordable Care
Act, otherwise
known as
Obamacare.

At ALEC, we are committed to enacting meaningful reforms to our healthcare system; however, with the regulatory burdens that have been brought on by Obamacare, we are unable to facilitate patient-centered policies that offer more competition and choice to the market. To this end, we request that Congress allow states to choose the level of regulation they have over the administration of their healthcare systems. Granting this authority will allow the original "laboratories of democracy" to design their regulatory framework, and serve their most vulnerable populations in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Since its implementation, Obamacare has given the federal government unprecedented authority over the cost and administration of healthcare in the United States. As a result, premiums have skyrocketed and the number of people on Medicaid has increased by 28 percent, an enormous increase for those eligible to receive government-sponsored healthcare. To reverse this trend, states must be empowered to limit government mandates and lay the foundation for more free-market reforms so patients may have more competition and choice in how they receive and access the care they need. This will begin with Congress repealing and replacing Obamacare.

While we understand the challenges associated with compromise, leaving Obamacare in place is not an option. States should be given maximum flexibility to either opt-in or out of some or all of Obamacare Title 1 requirements, as well as implement market-based reforms that will increase access to and bring down the cost of care to their Medicaid programs through the waiver process with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Further, we request Congress prioritize restructuring the Medicaid program in to a block grant or per-capita allotment reimbursement system, a reform the Congressional Budget Office recently scored to save taxpayers \$880 billion^[i] and would be one of the biggest entitlement reform achievements in U.S. history.

States should take back their rightful authority to enact fundamental reform and improvement of healthcare in the U.S. If Congress and the Executive Branch do not repeal harmful taxes, fees and regulatory mandates, Americans will continue to lose access to health coverage and see double-digit increases in their health insurance premiums. Please join me in urging your members of Congress to continue to work toward repealing and replacing Obamacare, before this landmark moment passes us by.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Buck
National Chairman
American Legislative Exchange Council

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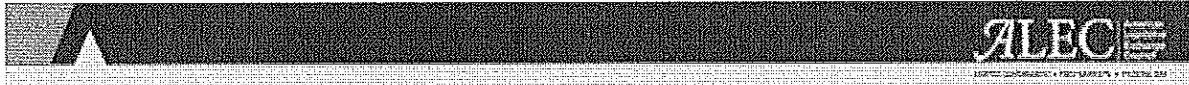
From: American Legislative Exchange Council
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2017 12:01 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Kirk, Does Your State's Income Tax Cover School Supplies?

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Digital Exchange - August 17, 2017



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Federalism and the Philippines

Karla Jones | ALEC Blog



Karla Jones, ALEC Federalism and International Relations Task Force Director, was invited to present overseas on "Understanding the Structures of Federalism" at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Karla led a robust conversation on federalism in the Philippines... [\(more\)](#)

ALEC Headline News

ALEC and ACCE Sit Down With USA Today

Jonathan Williams | Jon Russell | *USA Today*



Jonathan Williams, ALEC Chief Economist, and Jon Russell, ACCE Executive Director sat down with *USA Today* to discuss "left-wing special interest groups" advancing its issues through local governments... [\(more\)](#)

Parents Frustrated That State Income Taxes Don't Cover School Supplies

Chris Woodward | Inez Fletscher Stepman | *Lifezette*



Inez Fletscher Stepman, Education and Workforce Development Task Force Director, told Chris Woodward of LifeZette, "The frustration [of families who must fortify the supplies of the schools] is justified, but let's look at where the taxpayer investment is actually going instead of assuming it's just too low."... [\(more\)](#)

What's Happening in the States

Court Strikes Down Minnesota Governor's Move to Defund Legislature

Bob Williams | *Huffington Post*



A line-item veto by Minnesota's Governor Mark Dayton to strip the legislature of funding to help balance the budget was ruled unconstitutional by the Minnesota Supreme Court. ALEC ranked Minnesota 45th in economic outlook in the 10th edition of *Rich States, Poor States*... [\(more\)](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Nathan Dahm | OK-33



Sen. Nathan Dahm represents the 33rd district as a 2nd term Whip in the Oklahoma Legislature. He is the Chair of the General Government committee, the Ranking Member of the Judiciary committee, and a member of the Rules, Business and Commerce, and Appropriations committees.... [\(more\)](#)

2017 Member Survey

As we enter our 45th year, you can play an integral role in assuring that we remain the leading state legislative organization. Take a few minutes to help us better serve you by taking our 2017 Member Survey.

ALEC Events Update

August - September Look Ahead

Free Speech | Tax Reform

- **Center to Protect Free Speech - "First Fridays" Call will return in September... (RSVP)**
- **Center for State Fiscal Reform - Keep an eye on your inbox.** The Center will be hosting a series of weekly calls to provide timely updates on tax reform legislation.

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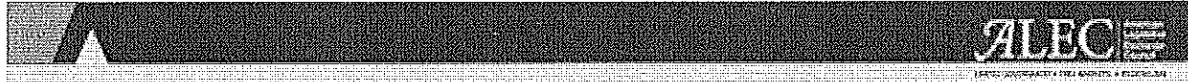
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To: Rep48
Subject: Trouble draining the swamp? Try Returning Power to the States

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**Federalism and International Relations
Updates**



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Federalism and the Philippines

Karla Jones | ALEC Blog



= A

Karla Jones, ALEC Federalism and International Relations Task Force Director was invited to the U.S. Embassy in Manila, to showcase how federalism would work for the Philippines... [\(more\)](#)

Trouble Draining the Swamp? Try Returning Power to the States

Taylor McCarty | *The Hill*



ALEC Public Affairs team member Taylor McCarty sounds the warning of our founding fathers in her column in *The Hill*. McCarty writes, "Power must be returned from the unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats of the political class as well as the legislature....to truly drain the swamp, and return power to the states".... [\(more\)](#)

What's Happening in the States

= APostcards from Texas Part III

Joseph "Cy" Tongate | ALEC Blog



San Antonio is older than the United States. It is the site of the Alamo and the River Walk. Despite all of its beautiful attractions, it is also known to some as "NAFTA City" ... [\(more\)](#)

The EPA's Assault on Sheboygan County

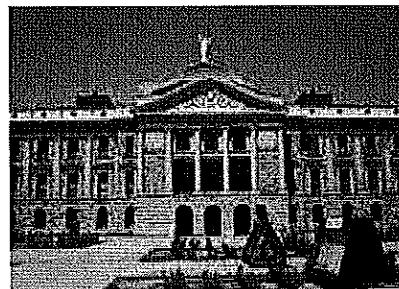
Jake Curtis | Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty



The EPA has proposed redesignating Sheboygan County's air quality ozone status raising it from "nonattainment marginal" to "nonattainment moderate." The rule received resistance from lawmakers, the business community and the WI Department of Natural Resources... [\(more\)](#)

States Hold Rules Convention for Adopting Balanced Budget Amendment

William H. Fruth | BBA Task Force



On September 12th in Phoenix, state delegations will hold a "formal" rules convention as a precursor to a future full convention to amend Article V of the U.S. Constitution requiring the federal government to produce a balanced budget... [\(more\)](#)

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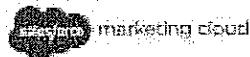
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From: Public Policy Law360
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 4:43 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: AARP Gets Wellness Regs Kicked Back To EEOC



Wednesday, August 23, 2017



TOP NEWS

AARP Gets Wellness Regs Kicked Back To EEOC

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission must reconsider two regulations surrounding employer-sponsored wellness programs that had been challenged by the AARP, a federal judge found Tuesday, but he kept the rules in place for the time being to avoid "disruption and confusion." [Read more »](#)

Trump Says He Is Willing To Shut Down Gov't Over Wall

President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he is willing to shut down the government to get a southern border wall funded and implied that he is still considering pardoning former Sheriff Joe Arpaio. [Read more »](#)

Meet The 'Horse Whisperer' Of ACA Policy

He's been called the "horse whisperer" of Affordable Care Act policymaking. He has his very own Twitter hashtag, which is used enthusiastically by health policy geeks. He's quoted in ACA stories more than almost any other wonk. So who is this guy? And how did he become one of the highest-profile analysts



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LAW FIRMS

Andrus Anderson
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer
Bradley Arant
Covington & Burling
DLA Piper
Duane Morris
Earthjustice
Foley & Lardner

during eight years of Obamacare twists and turns? Read more »

FDIC Chair Will Consider Cautious Tweaks To Volcker Rule

Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Chairman Martin Gruenberg on Tuesday said he was open to making changes to the Volcker Rule as long as they maintain the "substance" of the regulation's ban on proprietary trading by banks. Read more »

US, S. Korea Begin Kicking Tires On Trade Deal Retooling

The top trade officials for the U.S. and South Korea concluded the first phase of their effort to explore possible changes to their bilateral trade agreement Tuesday, with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer vowing to carry the process forward over the next several weeks. Read more »

Trump Calls For 'Dramatic' Shift In Afghanistan Strategy

President Donald Trump announced Monday night that he will "dramatically" overhaul U.S. strategy in Afghanistan but will not withdraw from the long-running war, saying a review by his national security staff had pushed him away from his initial instinct to pull out. Read more »

BANKING & SECURITIES

Feds Move To Ease Capital Treatment For Smaller Banks

Federal banking regulators on Tuesday said they would not require most banks to comply with international standards for the treatment of mortgage servicing and other assets as part of a planned easing of the capital rules for smaller banks. Read more »

CFP Board's Standards Proposal Gets Support, Suggestions

Greenbaum Rowe
Hunton & Williams
Kilpatrick Townsend
Kirkland & Ellis
Kobre & Kim
Mayer Brown
McDermott Will
Michael Best
Motley Rice
Norton Rose Fulbright
O'Melveny & Myers
Sayles Werbner
Shook Hardy
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Troutman Sanders
Zuckerman Spaeder

COMPANIES

AARP Inc.
AT&T Inc.
ATS Corporation
Allstate Corporation
American Association for Justice
American Bankers Association
American Enterprise Institute
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
American Legislative Exchange Council
American Water Works Company, Inc.
Brown Armstrong CPA
CFA Institute
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc.
Citigroup Inc.
Columbus McKinnon Corporation

Investor advocate groups and financial planning professional associations have thrown their support behind a Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards proposal to expand its fiduciary standards but suggested clarifications, while some business groups said the board should wait for rulemaking from federal agencies. [Read more »](#)

OCC Wants 'Speculative' NY Fintech Charter Suit Tossed

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has said that New York state regulators cannot prove that a special charter for financial technology firms would be harmful to them because the national bank regulator has not yet even issued one, making the state lawsuit a "speculative" exercise. [Read more »](#)

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

5th Circ. Puts EPA Power Plant Effluent Rule Fights On Hold

The Fifth Circuit on Tuesday granted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's request to delay industry challenges to portions of an Obama-era rule limiting toxic metal levels in wastewater discharged from steam-powered electricity plants while the agency revises them, a move opposed by environmental groups. [Read more »](#)

HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES

Jury Selection Kicks Off In Menendez Corruption Trial

Prosecutors and defense counsel on Tuesday combed through potential jurors to serve on the corruption trial of Sen. Bob Menendez and Florida ophthalmologist Salomon Melgen, with the government dismissing a juror whose relatives work in legal capacities and the senator tossing a juror with family ties to law enforcement. [Read more »](#)

Conference of State Bank Supervisors
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Reports
Council on Foreign Relations
Douglas Dynamics, Inc.
Duke Energy Corporation
Ernst & Young
FSI International, Inc.
Fifth Third Bancorp
Ford Motor Company
Honda Motor Co. Ltd.
Liberty Mutual
Magnetek, Inc.
MedPage Today LLC
MetLife Inc.
National Association of Insurance Commissioners
National Association of Letter Carriers
Netflix Inc.
New York Times Co.
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co.
Oshkosh Corporation
Pentair Inc.
Pittsburgh Steelers
Progressive Corporation
RadioShack Corporation
SIFMA
Safeco
Sierra Club
State Farm
Tax Foundation
Tesla Motors Inc.
Twitter Inc.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Tesla Wins Bid For Lawmaker Docs In Direct Auto Sales Fight

A Michigan magistrate judge on Monday ordered two Republican state lawmakers to comply with Tesla Motors Inc.'s requests for documents related to a state law passed in 2014 that bans the automaker from selling directly to consumers. [Read more »](#)

REAL ESTATE

FinCEN Expands High-End Real Estate Reporting To Hawaii

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network on Tuesday expanded its geographic targeting orders to cover Honolulu as one of the metropolitan areas where large real estate transactions will draw scrutiny, while also adding wire transfers to the list of payment types that insurers should flag. [Read more »](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Lawmakers Query 10 Agency Heads On Leave For Union Work

Two high-ranking congressional oversight committee members said Tuesday they have asked the heads of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Labor and eight other agencies about their use of unpaid leave, following reports that the U.S. Postal Service let workers off for a pro-Hillary Clinton union campaign. [Read more »](#)

AEROSPACE & DEFENSE

Iran Says It Can Resume Uranium Enrichment In Just 5 Days

The chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran's atomic energy organization said Tuesday the country could resume producing highly enriched uranium in less than a week if the

United Services Automobile Association

Unum Group

Verizon Communications

Washington Post Co.

Wells Fargo & Co.

Whiting Petroleum Corp.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Commodity Futures Trading Commission

Congressional Budget Office

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Department of Commerce

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Executive Office of the President

Federal Communications Commission

Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council

Federal Reserve System

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

New York State Department of Financial Services

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

Pennsylvania Supreme Court
Securities and Exchange Commission

Small Business Administration

Social Security Administration

U.S. Attorney's Office

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Department of Labor

2015 international agreement limiting its nuclear program were to fall apart. Read more »

Arab Bank Says Terror Case 'Exemplifies' Alien Tort Abuse

Arab Bank PLC on Tuesday told the U.S. Supreme Court that a bid by victims of Palestinian attacks to revive allegations that the bank helped militants fund their activities "exemplifies much of what is wrong" with current attempts to expand the use of the Alien Tort Statute. Read more »

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

US Advances WTO Case Against Chinese Ag Policies

The Trump administration has yet to file a complaint at the World Trade Organization, but it has picked up the baton from its predecessors by looking to move a case over China's agricultural import quotas to the panel stage, according to WTO documents circulated Monday. Read more »

TAX

Corporate Tax Cuts Won't Really Benefit Workers: Report

President Donald Trump's proposal to slash corporate taxes in part to boost workers' pay is "misleading" because most of the benefits will skew to the wealthy instead, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said in a new analysis issued Monday. Read more »

IMMIGRATION

LA Wants In On Sanctuary City Fight

Los Angeles said Tuesday it wants to jump into a fight against the Trump administration over a recent move to cut off federal public safety funding for so-called sanctuary cities, just a day after a California federal judge shot down

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Postal Service

U.S. Senate

U.S. Supreme Court

World Trade Organization

a suit by a smaller Golden State town over the policy. [Read more »](#)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

AT&T Pushes FCC To Steer Streamlined Make-Ready Work

The Federal Communications Commission should support streamlined make-ready processes and incremental fee increases to speed up wire line broadband service development, AT&T Inc. recently told the agency. [Read more »](#)

EXPERT ANALYSIS

Can Trump's Infrastructure Order Speed Up Enviro Reviews?

As President Donald Trump's recent executive order aimed at improving the environmental review and permitting process is implemented over the next few months, project sponsors will start to see how much it will improve the process. But there will likely be limits to how much relief the order can provide, says Felicia Barnes of Hunton & Williams LLP. [Read more »](#)

Applying Contractual Principles In Pa. Unfair-Trade Claims

Claims against insurers under Pennsylvania's Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law occupy a unique place in its jurisprudence. Courts should be reluctant to ignore contractual principles when a UTPCPL claim arises out of an insurance policy, says Charlotte Thomas of Duane Morris LLP. [Read more »](#)

Opinion

Stop Gerrymandering Before It Stops Democracy

If partisan gerrymandering continues unchecked, its effects could spread to our entire political system. Since its beneficiaries have an interest in amplifying it, the only

permanent way to mitigate this danger is to clamp down on the practice itself. The U.S. Supreme Court now has an opportunity to do precisely that, says Paul Smith of the Campaign Legal Center. [Read more »](#)

Rebuttal

Assessing 'The Value Of Class Actions'

In a recent Law360 opinion piece, Gary Mason claimed that class actions provide "significant benefits" to class members. But the study he conducted to support this conclusion shows just the opposite, says Andrew Pincus of Mayer Brown LLP. [Read more »](#)

LEGAL INDUSTRY

Demand And Head Count Down At Smallest BigLaw Firms

Attorney head count and billable hours were down at the smallest BigLaw firms during the first half of 2017, even as the largest of the large firms experienced significant improvements, a report out on Tuesday found. [Read more »](#)

Steptoe Wants Gender Pay Suit Buried In Arbitration: Atty

A former Steptoe & Johnson LLP associate told a California federal court Monday the law firm is trying to arbitrate her pay discrimination suit to keep it out of the public eye despite a Ninth Circuit ruling that arbitration agreements like hers — with class action waivers — are unenforceable. [Read more »](#)

Ex-BigLaw Atty's Associate Wants Insider Trading Trial In NY

A business associate of former Foley & Lardner LLP partner Walter "Chet" Little on Monday opposed Little's bid to move their insider trading case from New York to Florida, where he says media coverage of the charges

will taint the jury pool and prevent them from receiving a fair trial. [Read more »](#)

DOJ Pulls Back On Warrant To Anti-Trump Website Host

The U.S. Department of Justice on Tuesday sought to limit the scope of a controversial warrant for a wide swath of information about visitors to an anti-Trump protest site. [Read more »](#)

JOBS

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Law360 | Portfolio Media, Inc, 111 West 19th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10011

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To: Rep48
Subject: Lawyer Groups Urge Congress To Not Split 9th Circ.

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Thursday, August 24, 2017



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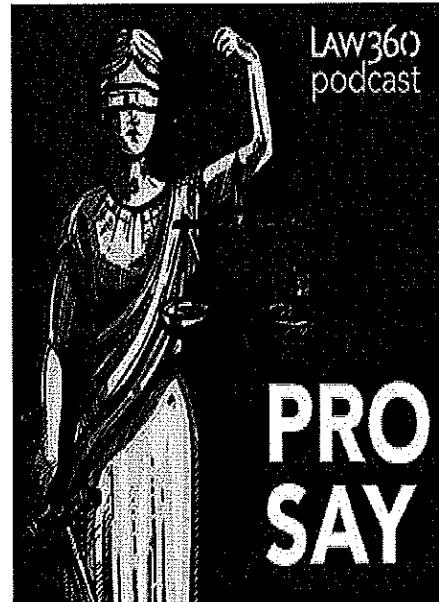
Lawyer Groups Urge Congress To Not Split 9th Circ.

Several lawyer organizations, including the National Bar Association and the National Employment Lawyers Association, on Tuesday urged federal lawmakers not to push forward legislation to split up the Ninth Circuit, arguing that a division would threaten the integrity of the judiciary. [Read more »](#)

= 9

Trump Again Rattles NAFTA 'Termination' Saber

Just two days after the first round of talks to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement wrapped up, President Donald Trump on Tuesday reiterated his openness to "terminating" the deal altogether. [Read more »](#)



Listen to our new podcast here

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LAW FIRMS

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Analysis
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Skeptical Courts May Undermine Trump's Energy Project Push

Recent court rulings ordering federal agencies to analyze the climate change impacts of fossil fuel projects highlight the legal hurdles facing President Donald Trump's executive orders encouraging faster approvals of energy infrastructure, and experts say that judges' willingness to acknowledge global warming may mean those executive orders end up slowing down — not speeding up — project development. [Read more](#) = 2

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USCIS Updates Its Policy Manual On Inadmissibility Waivers

= 9

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on Wednesday published an updated version of its guidelines for how foreign nationals who may not qualify for entry into the U.S. can overcome the barriers by applying for waivers. [Read more](#) » = 9

Jury Seated For Sen. Menendez Corruption Trial In NJ

= 9 A final panel of 16 jurors was selected Wednesday to hear the New Jersey federal court corruption trial of Sen. Bob Menendez and Florida ophthalmologist Salomon Melgen, setting the stage for a legal battle over whether the Democratic official accepted bribes from the doctor in exchange for political favors. [Read more](#) »

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

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DOE Encouraged To Halt Expanded Natural Gas Exports

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Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer
Boardman & Clark
Day Pitney
Greenbaum Rowe
Herssein Law Group
Hudson Cook
K&L Gates
Kobre & Kim
Lee Hong Degerman
Marten Law
McDermott Will
Miller Shakman
Moore & Van Allen
Norton Rose Fulbright
Shutts & Bowen
Sullivan & Worcester

COMPANIES

AT&T Inc.
American Bar Association
American Civil Liberties Union
American Legislative Exchange Council
American Wind Energy Association
California Independent System Operator
CenturyLink Inc.
Comcast Corporation
Facebook
Goldman Sachs Group Inc.
Marathon Capital LLC
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc.
NERA Economic Consulting
National Employment Lawyers Association
New York Times Co.
New York University

A manufacturers' advocacy group on Tuesday urged the U.S. Department of Energy to immediately halt new liquefied natural gas exports to nations that do not have a free trade agreement with the U.S., imploring the agency to gather new data on the current policy's potentially adverse pricing effects. Read more » = 9

EMPLOYMENT

Union Slams Choice Of Mine Safety Admin. Acting Policy Head

= 9 The president of the United Mine Workers of America criticized the recent appointment of Wayne Palmer as acting policy head of the Mine Safety and Health Administration Tuesday, questioning how much the longtime congressional staffer knows about mine safety. Read more »

AEROSPACE & DEFENSE

= 9

GAO Urges DOD To Step Up Efforts On Foreign Military Sales

Despite improvement over time, the U.S. Department of Defense is still falling short of its performance goals for processing purchase requests made under the Foreign Military Sales program, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a report Tuesday. Read more » = 9

Navy Must Beef Up Logistics And Support Fleet, GAO Says

= 9 The U.S. Navy must put in place a plan to rejuvenate its fleet of logistics and transport ships or risk a decline in military readiness, according to an August report from the Government Accountability Office. Read more »

TAX

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Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
Public Broadcasting Service
Public Knowledge

Rust Consulting Inc.

Sierra Club
Suntrust Banks Inc.
Tax Foundation
U.S. Energy Corp.
United Mine Workers of America
United Services Automobile Association
Verizon Communications
= 9

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services
Bureau of Land Management
California Department of Justice
Council on Environmental Quality
Defense Security Cooperation Agency
Executive Office of the President
= 9
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Communications Commission
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Fish and Wildlife Service
= 9
Government Accountability Office
Internal Revenue Service
International Trade Commission
Military Sealift Command
Mine Safety and Health Administration
NAFTA

Bar On Religious Political Activity Still Applies, DOJ Says

The Trump administration urged a Wisconsin federal judge Tuesday to dismiss an atheist nonprofit's lawsuit accusing the president of giving churches constitutionally preferential tax treatment by easing enforcement of a prohibition on political endorsements by religious groups, arguing the group is challenging a policy that doesn't exist. [Read more »](#)

IMMIGRATION

= 9

No Class Cert. For Yemenis Held Up By Travel Ban

A California federal judge refused Tuesday to grant class certification to a group of Yemenis in the U.S. and relatives who say they were issued visas but improperly prevented from coming to America because of the Trump administration's travel ban, finding their "amorphous theory" made the case difficult. [Read more »](#) = 9

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Net Neutrality Orgs Call For Consumer Complaint Docs

A group of 16 advocacy organizations has urged the Federal Communications Commission to release all consumer complaints related to net neutrality from the past two years before moving forward with rolling back its internet protections, which require service providers to treat all online content equally. [Read more »](#)

EXPERT ANALYSIS

= 9

Renewable Energy In The Age Of Trump

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Securities and Exchange Commission

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U.S. Customs and Border Protection

= 9

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of State

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Navy

= 9

U.S. Supreme Court

= 9 The same rhetoric from the Trump administration that mobilized coal country voters has worried renewable energy advocates. However, there are four areas where the current administration's policies could have a lasting effect on renewable energy development, say Andrew Bell and Reed McCalib of Marten Law PLLC. Read more [½ B](#)

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Time To Prepare For Military Lending Act Compliance

Many of the Military Lending Act's requirements remain fuzzy and unclear, while the penalties imposed are draconian. The temporary exemption for credit cards is now set to expire in little more than a month, and the U.S. Department of Defense has not given any indication that it plans to extend the compliance date another year, say Ronald Gorsline and Erica Kramer of Hudson Cook LLP. Read more »

A Law Firm Guide To Helping Victims Of Human Trafficking

Unlike victims of many crimes, human trafficking survivors often have complicated legal problems related to the experience of being trafficked — everything from criminal records to custody disputes to immigration obstacles. Many law firms already provide assistance in these areas and can easily transition resources and expertise, says Sarah Dohoney Byrne of Moore & Van Allen PLLC. Read more »

LEGAL INDUSTRY

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Analysis

How The GRE May Help Bridge Law's Tech Gap

As technology plays an ever larger role in the delivery of legal services, the deans of three law schools say accepting the GRE as an entrance exam could help them dip into a highly sought-after pool of talent: science and technology students. [Read more »](#)

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Chicago Law Firm Sues Ex-Partners Over Alleged Client Theft

Hale Law LLC sued two of its former partners in Illinois county court Tuesday, claiming the pair wooed away business from the city of Chicago, its biggest client, for a new firm they were forming while still working at Hale. [Read more »](#)

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Judge's Facebook Friendship Isn't Disqualifying: Fla. Court= A

= 9 A Florida appeals court declined Wednesday to disqualify a judge for being Facebook friends with an attorney involved in a suit over which she presided, ruling that the online relationship is not automatically disqualifying. [Read more »](#)= A

Law Firm Duped By Email Scammers In Wage And Hour Case

The legal industry's susceptibility to cyberattacks was on display Tuesday in a Los Angeles courtroom, where a Superior Court judge warned attorneys about a recent incident in which email phishing scammers duped a law firm into handing over \$500,000 meant for plaintiffs in a wage and hour class action. [Read more »](#)

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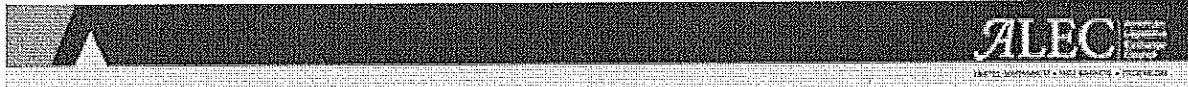
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Digital Exchange - August 24, 2017



Jonathan Williams Sits Down With The Daily Signal

Jonathan Williams | The Daily Signal



Jonathan Williams joins Genevieve Wood of The Daily Signal at The Heritage Foundation to discuss ALEC and the Center for State Fiscal Reform... [\(more\)](#)

ALEC Headline News

Ronald Lampard Discusses the Opioid Crisis on Tipping Point

Ronald Lampard | One America Network - Tipping Point



= A

Ronald Lampard, Director of the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, discusses the national opioid crisis with Stephanie Hamill... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Insight

Want to be an Interior Designer? Wait Six Years to be Legally Licensed

Tom McLaughlin | *Red Alert Politics*



Tom McLaughlin of ALEC explains the reality of today's occupational licensing. In a *Red Alert Politics* article, he exposes one of many excessive state licensing regulations--in this case, a six-year certification process for interior designers... [\(more\)](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

= A Senator Denny Hoskins | MO-21



Senator Denny Hoskins, represents District 21 in the Missouri Senate. In 2016 he was elected to serve in the Missouri Senate. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 2008 and elected to the office of Speaker Pro Tem in 2013. ... [\(more\)](#)

2017 Tax Reform Survey

It has been more than 30 years since the last time the federal tax code had a complete overhaul. As Congress considers federal tax reform, ALEC has been leading the way in providing free market solutions to the Administration. To continue this momentum, Please take a moment to take our 2017 ALEC Tax Reform survey.

ALEC Events Update

August - September Look Ahead

Free Speech | Tax Reform

- **Center to Protect Free Speech** - "First Fridays" Call will return September 8th at 11:00 AM EDT, for a back-to-school themed call. (RSVP)
- **Center for State Fiscal Reform** - **Keep an eye on your inbox.** The Center will be hosting a series of weekly calls to provide timely updates on tax reform legislation.

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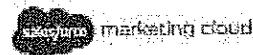


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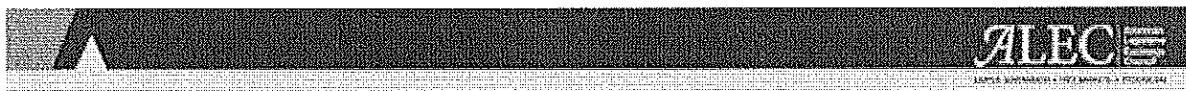
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Dear Kirk,

As students return to college, campus speech will once again be in the news. If there's a major incident, state legislators need to be aware of ways to act. On **September 8th**, I will be leading the discussion on a campus free speech model policy called the **FORUM ACT**. Joining me from the ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech is director Shelby Emmett. We will also be joined by Casey Mattox of the Alliance Defending Freedom.

Sept. 8 @ 11 AM EDT
RSVP Conference Call
FORUM Act info

This new model provides a clear path forward for state legislators. The challenge we face is determining the right action that encourages rather than chills free speech on campus. I hope you'll join us to find out more. **RSVP**

Sincerely,

Senator Leah Vukmir
Public Chair
The Center to Protect Free Speech

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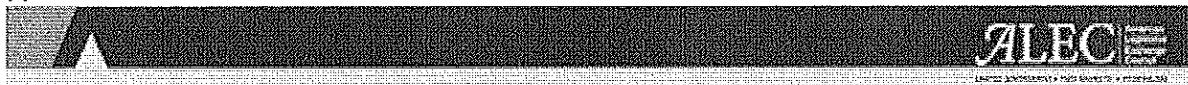
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Center for Innovation and Technology

When Innovation Disrupts Policing, Citizens, Municipalities and Police Win



Police forces often face budget challenges and time crunches – little money and more work than time allows. In this environment, technological innovations can come slowly, expensive, difficult to deploy and integrate. The challenges for police are not much different than the challenges most people face. With lack of time and stretched resources, even important, unexpected or non-routine tasks become hard to complete. In Texas there is innovation, in law and in technology, to help both the police and the public.

The law in Texas was changed two years ago to allow, and now the technology provides, a means for drivers to pay their past due traffic tickets on the spot even after a warrant for their arrest had been issued for failure to pay. [Techsig](#), a company that “provides police departments technologies and solution-sets designed to efficiently drive compliance, while increasing public safety,” has introduced a product and service called [WarrantPayIQ](#) that enables the process and gives life to the advantages provided for in the law.

Before the legal change and the new technology, a law enforcement would pull over a motorist and during the stop they might become aware that the driver has an outstanding warrant for their arrest due to unpaid traffic tickets. The police would then have to place the driver under arrest, guide them through the expensive jail booking process, put them in jail, so they then could appear before the court. Their car would be impounded and child they had with them, assuming no relative was available to retrieve them, would be given over to the Department of Family and Protective Services.

This series of unfortunate events can be curtailed. Instead of the driver being arrested they have the option to pay the outstanding fines with a debit or credit card. The officer hands the driver a piece of hardware that looks much like a mobile phone nestled in a larger plastic casing. Through easy prompts the driver can pay their fines, ultimately swiping their credit or debit card. Once the fine is taken care of, the family continues on its way. Even with this new law and technology in place, the driver will still have the option to be taken to jail and face the court and contest the fine and warrant.

The benefits to society are obvious. Law enforcement runs more efficiently. instead of time and resources are prioritized to the most serious offenders, hence relieving jail crowding. Having the fines paid with less hassle and expense provides the anticipated resources to the jurisdiction to meet their budgetary expectations. But most importantly, citizens have a means for avoiding the embarrassment, disruption and additional costs associated with being arrested and taken to jail.

Innovation can disrupt processes, organizations and even whole industries often causing confusion and angst until a new means of operation emerges. In this case, the citizens are the winners and the winning effects immediate.

Sincerely,

Bartlett Cleland
Director
Center for Innovation and Technology

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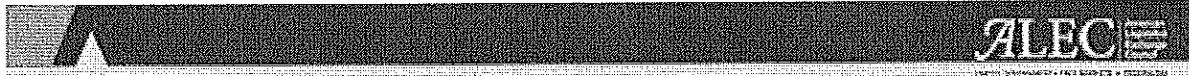
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Digital Exchange - August 31, 2017



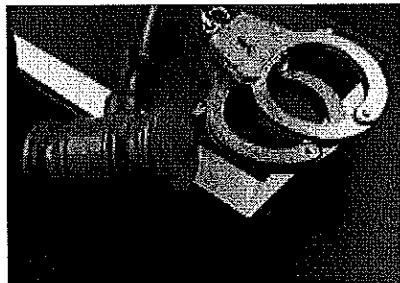
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Arizona Governor Ducey Recognizes Importance of Re-entry Programs

Ronald J. Lampard | The ALEC Blog

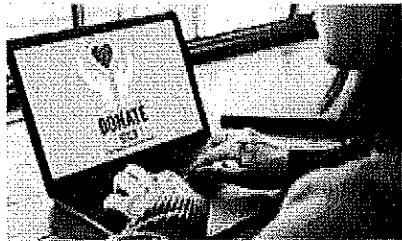


Under Gov. Ducey's leadership, Arizona has identified the benefits of re-entry programs. Roughly 95% of all state and federal inmates will leave prison at some point in their lives... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Insight

A Huge Donor Disclosure Threat

Shelby Emmett | The ALEC Blog

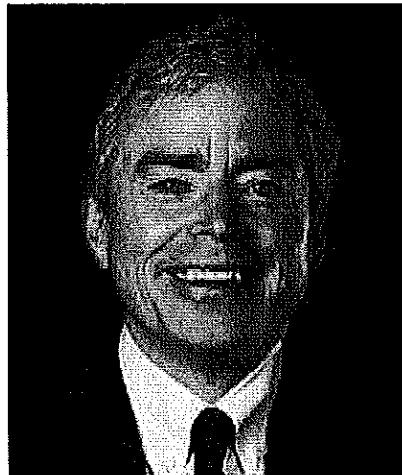


At all levels of government, lawmakers are drafting bills to chill the free speech rights of individuals including proposals that would force nonprofit organizations to reveal donor names... [\(more\)](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Don Huffines | TX-16



Senator Don Huffines is a sixth-generation Texan. He is a first term senator in the Texas legislature representing the 16th district, which encompasses the north half of Dallas County. His main legislative interests are in the fields of law, economics, and criminal justice... [\(more\)](#)

ALEC Events Update

The Center to Protect Free Speech - FIRST FRIDAY'S CALL Sept. 8th

Contact Shelby Emmett for more info: semmett@alec.org



On Friday, September 8th at 11:00 AM EDT, the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next conference call. Please join Public Chair Sen. Leah Vukmir, Center Director Shelby Emmett, Rep. Kim Coleman and Casey Mattox to discuss the **Forming Open Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act... (RSVP)**

2017 Tax Reform Survey

It has been more than 30 years since the last time the federal tax code had a complete overhaul. As Congress considers federal tax reform, ALEC has been leading the way in providing free market solutions to the Administration. To continue this momentum, Please take a moment to take our 2017 ALEC Tax Reform survey.

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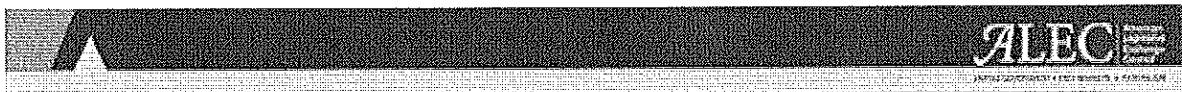
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Dear Kirk,

[This is a special reminder] to join me, the Center to Protect Free Speech Director Shelby Emmett and Alliance Defending Freedom's Casey Mattox on **Friday, September 8th at 11:00 AM EDT** for a "First Fridays" conference call focused on the new ALEC model policy, the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act.

Call Details:

Sept. 8 @ 11 AM EDT
RSVP Conference Call
FORUM Act info

This new model provides a clear path forward for state legislators. The challenge we face is determining the right action that encourages rather than chills free speech on campus.

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Sincerely,

Senator Leah Vukmir
The Center to Protect Free Speech
Public Chair

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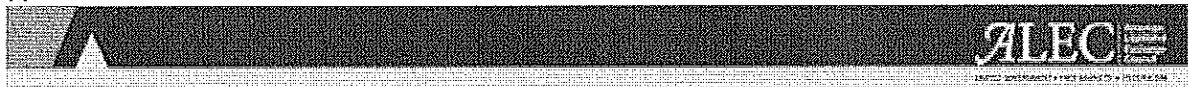
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Center to Protect Free Speech - September 5, 2017



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"First Fridays" Call September 8th - Campus Speech

Contact Shelby Emmett: Semmett@alec.org

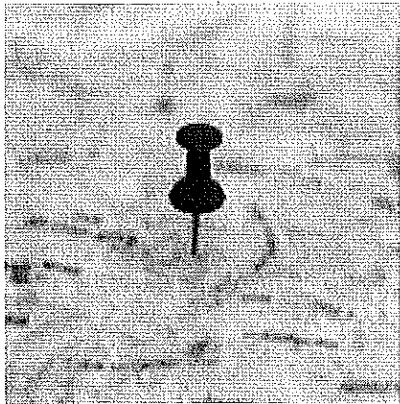


This Friday, the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next conference call on our model policy to protect free speech on college campuses. Join us to discuss the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act... **(RSVP)**

ALEC Issue Briefings

Free Speech Briefings in Your State

Contact Shelby Emmett: Semmett@alec.org



The Center to Protect Free Speech is holding free speech issue briefings at state Capitols across the United States.

If you are interested in having a free speech issue briefing in your state, click below and Shelby Emmett will reach out to you with more information.

[Schedule Your Briefing.](#)

Expert Insight

How I Brought Free Speech Reform (and Tomi Lahren) to my Campus

Giovanni Triana | *Red Alert Politics*

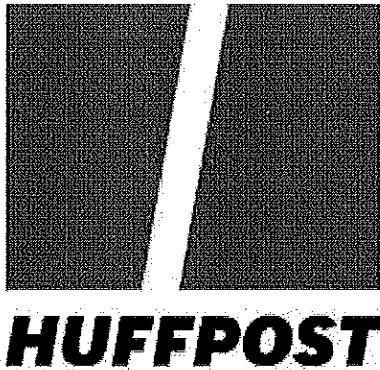


Former ALEC intern Giovanni Triana tells of his experience with speech zones and his work to reform speech codes at East Carolina University... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Opinion

Setting the Record Straight on HUFFPOST

Shelby Emmett | *Read Representative Taylor's HUFFPOST Article*



Center Director Shelby Emmett fired back with a corrective response to Wisconsin Rep. Taylor's HUFFPOST piece about the ALEC campus speech model policy, the Forming Robust and Open University Minds (FORUM) Act... [\(read full response\)](#)

Center Update

Shelby Emmett Hosted Campus Speech Panel

Contact Shelby Emmett: semmett@alec.org



Center Director Shelby Emmett participated in a panel at the State Policy Network's Annual Meeting. The panel discussed both current and potential reforms to protect free speech on college campuses. Other speakers included Guy Benson of Townhall Media and Robert Shibley of Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

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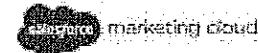
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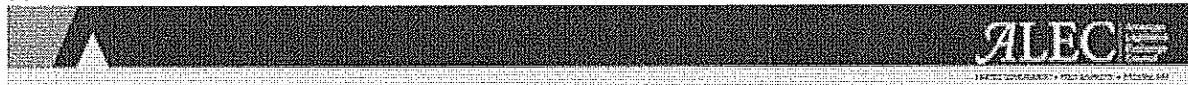
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Digital Exchange - September 7, 2017



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Connecticut's GDP Hurt by State Income Tax

Thurston Powers | *Hartford Courant*

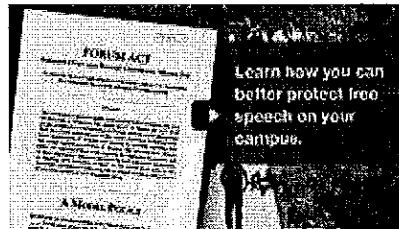


Thurston Powers, ALEC Tax Analyst, authored op-ed in the *Hartford Courant* on the state's growing deficit due to its corrective sales tax increase... [\(more\)](#)

NEW VIDEO: ALEC Policy 101

The FORUM Act - A Model Policy Proposal

Shelby Emmett | ALEC Model Policy



Shelby Emmett, Director of the Center to Protect Free Speech, talks about the new model policy, the FORUM Act. The video explains how legislators can better protect free speech on college campuses... [\(view\)](#)

ALEC Events Update

The Center to Protect Free Speech - FIRST FRIDAY'S CALL TOMORROW

Contact Shelby Emmett for more info: semmett@alec.org



Tomorrow, at 11:00 AM EDT, the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next conference call. Join the discuss on the **Forming Open Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act**. [Click here](#) for call-in details.

Expert Opinion

Violence Next Time

Stephen Moore | *Townhall*

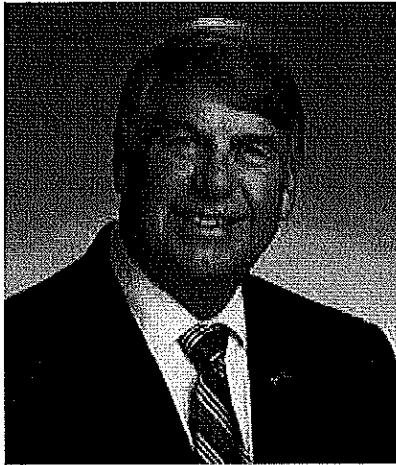


Stephen Moore, ALEC friend and contributor, recounts his first-hand experience with violent protesters disrupting the 2016 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh. The *Townhall* article provides a poignant view of constructive protests v. organized violence recently seen in the news... [\(more\)](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Ed Jackson | TN-27



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks are proud to introduce Senator Ed Jackson, of Tennessee's 27th District. This weekly Q&A profile showcases legislators who embody the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. This series introduces key legislators to ALEC members. Here's an excerpt:

"At my first ALEC meeting, I was able to learn about problems, not just in Tennessee, but issues all states were struggling with." [\(read Q&A\)](#)

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The Constitutional Reform Planning Convention

On September 11, delegates from across the country will gather in Phoenix, Arizona at the Arizona Capitol Building for a historical event that could be remembered as one of the first steps toward enacting important constitutional reforms. State legislators will convene for the purpose of planning "a prospective convention for proposing a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution," under the authority of Arizona House Concurrent Resolution 2022.

In recent years, the United States' national debt has ballooned to greater than \$19 trillion, causing numerous advocacy groups concerned about reining in out-of-control government spending to urge state lawmakers to enact an Article V amendments convention for the purpose of enacting a balanced budget amendment. Under Article V, two-thirds of state legislatures, currently 34, can approve and submit applications to Congress to call a convention of the states. Once a convention has been called, states, without the approval of Congress, can pass amendments to the Constitution. Once ratified by three-fourths of states, those amendments would become law.

The convention taking place next Tuesday in Arizona is not an Article V convention that will propose amendments, but lawmakers will use the convention to outline the procedures that would need to be enacted for a future amendments convention to run smoothly.

There are currently numerous Article V movements that could eventually lead to the passage of a balanced budget amendment. For instance, the Balanced Budget Amendment Task Force (BBATF), a coordinator of the Arizona Planning Convention, advocates for the use of Article V for a convention to propose a single-item balanced budget amendment.

As of August 1, 27 states have passed BBATF balanced budget amendment applications. Six more states must pass applications in order for a convention to be called. Idaho, Kentucky, and Virginia all introduced balanced budget amendment resolutions in 2017, but none of them passed.

Another influential Article V plan has been advanced by the Convention of States Project (COSP), which proposes the passage of amendments that would create a balanced budget requirement and term limits. Twelve states have active COSP applications.

Compact for America's plan would streamline the amendment process and condense legislative acts. A total of five states have passed applications.

Experts awaiting the momentous convention in Phoenix remain uncertain about exactly what will come out of the Phoenix convention, but it's important to note the convention is being held just as the Article V movement is gaining a lot of steam.

David Guldenschuh, a Heartland Institute policy advisor and president of the Committee for a Fiscal Responsibility Amendment, has reported 25 states have selected delegates for the Phoenix convention and "about 10 states are currently discussing the matter, but divided leadership and logistics are creating hurdles."

Guldenschuh argues partisanship should not stand in the way of the convention. "The Phoenix convention is not about a 'right' or 'left' agenda; it's about the states re-uniting our republic," he said.

The Heartland Institute has had the privilege of working with many of the leading Article V groups in recent years, and Heartland experts will be in Phoenix next week to report on the planning convention. Heartland will provide daily updates, videos, and a live stream of the convention on the Heartland website. You can also check out lots of other articles, news, and opinion at Heartland's Center for Constitutional Reform website and the Center's Twitter page.

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WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

Health Care

Research & Commentary: Iowa's 1332 Waiver Could Be a Bellwether for Other States

In this Research & Commentary, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans examines a 1332 Affordable Care Act waiver in Iowa that requests the

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to allow the state to use estimated federal spending from Affordable Care Act tax credits on new state tax-credit and reinsurance programs. “Iowa’s waiver proposal is far from perfect. However, it does illustrate well the desperate situations that have been created by the ACA in many states and the ability of the waiver process to address these problems by giving states the flexibility to change their health care system,” Glans wrote. [Read more](#)

Education

Research & Commentary: The Lack of Quality Alternatives for School-Closure Students

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson examines a new report from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University that examines the closure of low-performing public schools in the charter and traditional public school sectors. The study’s authors found the schools that closed were trending downward in reading and math achievement prior to closing, which led to lower enrollment, and Benson argues students should be allowed to attend the school of their choice using public school dollars, including private schools. “Private school choice alternatives give more families a greater opportunity to meet each child’s education needs. When parents are given the opportunity to choose, every school—private, charter, traditional public—must compete and improve, which allows more children to attend a quality school,” wrote Benson. [Read more](#)

Energy & Environment

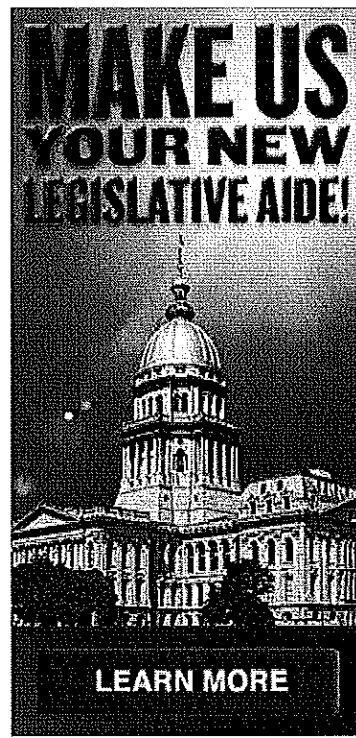
Research & Commentary: Meeting Clean Energy Standard Mandates Could Cost New York Ratepayers, Businesses \$1 Trillion

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson examines a report by Jonathan A. Lesser of the Manhattan Institute titled “New York’s Clean Energy Programs: The High Cost of Symbolic Environmentalism.” Lesser’s report claims New York State’s 2016 Clean Energy Standard, which mandates Empire State utilities produce at least 50 percent of all the electricity sold in the state via renewable generation by 2030, will significantly raise electricity costs for New Yorkers while simultaneously having “no measureable impact” on the climate. [Read more](#)

Budget & Tax

Roadmap for the Twenty-First Century: Nine ways Trump and Congress Can Make America Great Again

The Roadmap for the Twenty-First Century Project is a collaboration of free-market economists located across the country. In a series of papers on major public policy issues facing the United States, Roadmap authors provide noteworthy, well-researched arguments about a number of important policy issues. In this paper, the authors tackle the most important domestic issues facing the country, including tax reform, regulation, and national defense. Formal co-sponsors of the



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The September 2017 issue of *Environment & Climate News* reports the Nashville Mayor Megan Barry has promised that her city will continue to abide by the Paris Climate Agreement, regardless of the United States' withdrawal from it. She criticized President Trump's decision to withdraw, believing that America should be a global leader in combatting climate change.

project are the National Tax Limitation Foundation and The Heartland Institute. Additionally, Americans for Tax Reform and the American Legislative Exchange Council hold supporting roles. [Purchase here](#)

From Our Free-Market Friends

[A State-by-State Analysis of Certificate-of-Need Laws](#)

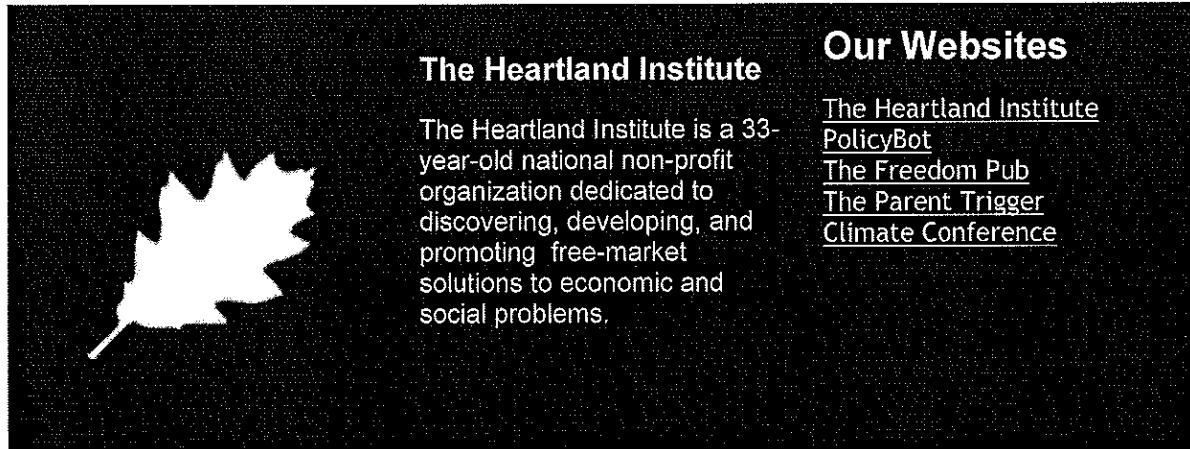
Thirty-five states and the District of Columbia currently impose certificate-of-need (CON) restrictions on the provision of health care. Decades of research by health economists, regulatory economists, and antitrust lawyers show CON laws fail to achieve their expressed goals, limit supply, and undermine competition. In this new analysis, researchers at the Mercatus Center show how CON laws correlate with health care market factors on a state-by-state basis. [Read more](#)

leader in the climate change movement.

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Think Deficit-Neutrality, Not Revenue-Neutrality to Pass Tax Cuts

Jonathan Williams and Alfredo Ortiz | *The Hill*

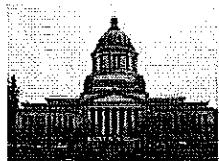


Jonathan Williams, ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform, and colleague Alfredo Ortiz co-authored an op-ed discussing the messaging strategy for the upcoming debate on Tax Reform... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Insight

Reliance on Legally Questionable Tax Threatens State Budget

Bob Williams and Erica York | *The Huffington Post*

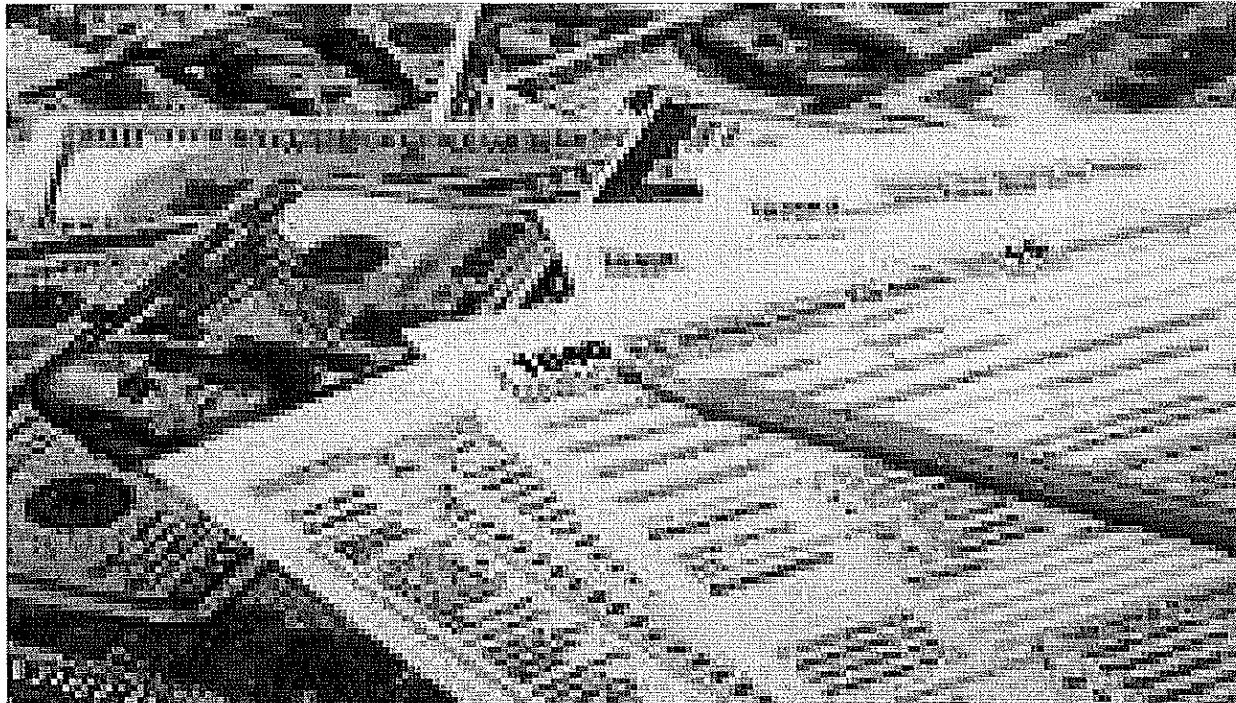


ALEC Senior Scholar, Bob Williams, discusses the vulnerability of Washington State's budget due to its reliance on a controversial tax in his regular Huffington Post column... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Opinion

Connecticut Hurt By Reliance On Income Tax

Thurston Powers | *The Hartford Courant*

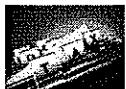


Thurston Powers, ALEC Tax Analyst, authored an op-ed concerning his home state's underperforming economy due to its current tax policy... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Opinion

Resist the Temptation to Tax Gross Receipts

Erica York | American Legislative Exchange Council



ALEC Tax Analyst, Erica York, provides an expert look into the economic effect of Gross Receipts Taxes as states desperately chase revenue. This tax does not belong in the modern budget toolkit... [\(more\)](#)

Interview

Jonathan Williams Sits Down with Genevieve Wood of The Daily Signal

Jonathan Williams | *The Daily Signal-Heritage Foundation*